



**MINERALS COUNCIL  
SOUTH AFRICA**

**FACTS  
AND FIGURES  
POCKETBOOK  
2025**

#MiningMatters

## Foreword

Mining plays a significant role in the lives of our people and the economy of our nation



The Minerals Council South Africa provides insights into the importance and relevance of mining for the South African economy and its citizens in our latest *Facts and Figures*. This pocketbook demonstrates why **#MiningMatters**.

Accurate and credible statistics allow us to fulfil our mandate as the trusted representative of mining in South Africa. In addition, the statistics presented in this publication help South Africans develop a more nuanced understanding of the current state of the mining industry. The *Facts and Figures* publication assists stakeholders in understanding the positive impact and important role

of mining in the economy, as well as the benefits that extend to the wider community. It highlights the need to nurture and grow the mining industry so that it can increase its relevance and contribution to society.

The Minerals Council's economics team plays a key role in gathering the data.

This pocketbook is published annually in February.

We rely on the latest, but incomplete, 2025 official data as published by various primary sources. As a result there will be updates and revisions as more complete and updated information becomes available.

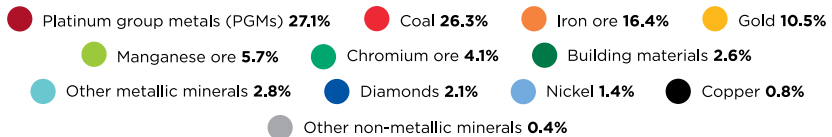
The comprehensive *Facts and Figures 2025* publication, which will contain these revisions and data additions, will be published in the third quarter of 2026.

*In compiling this Facts and Figures publication, the Minerals Council relies on various primary data sources such as Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR), the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), the South African Revenue Services (SARS), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United States Geological Survey.*



The Minerals Council South Africa has 66 members, representing around 90% of South Africa's mining industry's annual turnover. Total annualised turnover was valued at around R1.1 trillion in 2025 based on data available for the first three quarters of 2025. Our members' interests cover diverse minerals, with many companies mining multiple commodities. The illustration below and alongside depicts South Africa's production share by commodity, which mirrors our membership composition.

### % CONTRIBUTION TO PRODUCTION



## The mining sector in 2025



1. The average workforce size in the mining industry, calculated from data for the first three quarters of 2025.  
 2. The annual gross domestic product (GDP) figure is estimated by an extrapolation based on the average from the first three quarters of 2025.  
 3. Mining corporate income tax data reported by SARS for the 2024/25 financial year.

# Contents

<b>Vision, mission and values</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Message from the CEO</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mining at a glance</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Overview: the state of mining 2025</b>	
Global context	7
South Africa's macro-economic developments	9
Competitive indicators	11
Outlook	14
<b>Our metals and minerals</b>	
Coal	16
PGMs	21
Gold	27
Iron ore	32
Chrome	37
Manganese	42
Industrial minerals	46
Diamonds	50
<b>Junior and emerging miners</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Critical minerals</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Safety</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Contact details</b>	<b>OBC</b>



## OUR VISION

To ensure mining matters for South Africa.



## OUR MISSION

To lead in enabling the South African mining sector to achieve its full potential through investment, growth, transformation and development in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.



## OUR VALUES

Members are obliged to conduct their business according to agreed Minerals Council values, which dictate the minimum standards of conduct required of them in order to become or remain a member of the Minerals Council. The five values of the Minerals Council are:



Responsible citizenship



Respect



Trust



Honesty



Accountability

# Message from the CEO



The South African mining industry has navigated a year of both challenge and progress in 2025. The Minerals Council and its members remained steadfast in their commitment to ensuring that **#MiningMatters** for our nation, our economy and our people by attracting investment and encouraging growth in the industry.

2025 began with cautious optimism, building on the foundations laid in the previous year. The industry benefited from the continued absence of electricity load-curtailement and further improvements in logistics. The bottoming out and slow recovery of Transnet's rail performance and initial steps to open freight corridors to private train operators is encouraging. All indications are that Transnet will rail 171 million tonnes of freight - continuing the upward trajectory from the low of 149.5 million tonnes in 2022/23. These advances and continued reforms to the rail network will unlock investments in rail infrastructure

and rolling stock, resulting in improved volumes and efficiency gains contributing to a recovery in freight logistics. We must, however, caution that we have a long way to go to restore the fundamental services needed for a thriving economy that attracts sustainable, long-term capital investment.

South Africa remains globally uncompetitive with regard to electricity prices, constrained rail and port operations, and significant shortcomings in water infrastructure. For both electricity (Eskom) and rail and logistics (Transnet), ongoing reform and operational improvements are intended to restore performance to baseline levels, comparable to those achieved in 2019.

The **global context** was shaped by ongoing volatility and trade tensions, especially the punitive United States (US) tariff regime imposed on its trading partners, which influenced mineral supply chains, commodity prices and economic performance outlook.

## Message from the CEO continued

Despite these headwinds, South Africa's mining exports were mostly unaffected by US tariffs and remained resilient, with strong demand from key markets such as China, India and the US.

On the **domestic front**, mining is estimated to have contributed approximately R439.2 billion to GDP in 2025, on an annualised basis and employed nearly 469,000 people. Production is expected to grow marginally by approximately 0.2% year-on-year (y-o-y) in 2025, with sectors such as chrome and manganese set to reach new records for output and export volumes. The gold industry, buoyed by record prices peaking at US\$4,539 an ounce in December, delivered significant fiscal benefits, while prices of PGMs staged a recovery with the basket price up by some 10% for the first half of the year, even as South Africa's deep-level mining continued to face cost and productivity pressures.

A particular highlight of the year was South Africa's successful hosting of the **G20 summit** in November, where world leaders

gathered in Johannesburg to discuss global issues. These discussions placed sustainable development, climate resilience and economic stability firmly at the forefront of global growth. South Africa also ensured that Africa's growth priorities and challenges were meaningfully addressed, particularly in financing, electricity, rail and the minerals sector.

Notably, the *Critical Minerals and Metals Strategy* was published by the DMPR in 2025, providing a clear framework for the sector's role in the global energy transition and digital economy.

**Safety** remained our highest priority with 2025 another landmark year; the industry is tracking close to 2024 when the industry reported a record low 42 fatalities. Serious injuries reduced across most commodities. The Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0 initiative, with its focus on leadership, data-driven safety and holistic wellness, has created a culture of care and accountability throughout the industry. We note the progress the industry has

made in health and safety, but remain vigilant in our pursuit of Zero Harm, which the Minerals Council and its members believe is achievable.

**Health** initiatives, including the Masoyise Health Programme, continued to address occupational diseases, alongside TB and HIV. While screening rates for some conditions declined, there was a notable improvement in cholesterol screening and mental health support. The Minerals Council is committed to working with stakeholders to further enhance health outcomes for mineworkers in the year ahead.

In terms of dust control, efforts focused on promoting Mining Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) leading practices, and training occupational medical practitioners (OMPs) on occupational lung disease and early detection continue. Regarding noise, industry-wide initiatives such as the Industry Buy and Maintain Quiet Initiative (IBMQI) remain firmly in place and continue to gain traction.

# Message from the CEO continued

*“The junior and emerging mining sector grew its income by nearly 20%, supported by new exploration funding and a more supportive policy environment.”*

## **Transformation and inclusion**

advanced meaningfully in 2025. Women now comprise nearly 20% of the mining workforce, up from 16% in 2024. Progress on inclusive procurement and enterprise development has been encouraging, helping to drive the economic well-being of communities. The junior and emerging mining sector grew its income by nearly 20% before expenditure, supported by the availability of new exploration funding through the joint Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)/DMPR exploration fund and active lobbying by the Minerals Council for a more supportive regulatory and policy environment.

**Looking ahead**, the mining industry faces greater opportunities despite the risks. At a global level the consequences of the US tariff regime should start to manifest in the first quarter of 2026.

This year will also be marked by further trade tensions and significant geopolitical developments, particularly in China, Russia, Ukraine, the US and the Middle East. These factors will continue to shape global mineral demand, supply chains and trade with impacts on commodity prices, presenting both challenges and opportunities for our industry.

Domestically, the Minerals Council anticipates the publication of the revised Mineral Resources Development Bill (MRD Bill, 2025), which we trust will reflect the extensive engagements with the DMPR to create laws that will encourage and sustain investment and growth in our industry. At the same time, we must address persistent domestic constraints - electricity tariffs, regulatory hurdles and

infrastructure limitations - to unlock the industry's full potential.

The outlook for the mining industry will be determined by both global and local developments. While most minerals and metals are exempt from US tariffs - making the direct impact minimal or negligible - diamond exports to the US are likely to have the biggest impact, most likely starting in the second quarter of 2026 (though their exact effect remains indeterminable at present).

The Minerals Council remains a critical participant in shaping the future of mining. Through collaboration, innovation and responsible leadership, we will continue to drive positive change for our members and society.

We reaffirm that **#MiningMatters**.

**Mzila Mthenjane**  
Chief Executive Officer

February 2026

# MINING AT A GLANCE

Snapshot 2025:



▲	▼	▼	▲	▲	▼
<b>Industry turnover</b>	<b>Direct GDP contribution<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Percentage contribution to GDP</b>	<b>Total primary sales</b>	<b>Minerals exports</b>	<b>Employment<sup>5</sup></b>
<b>R1.1 trillion</b> (1.1%)	<b>R439.2 billion</b> (-0.8%)	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>R836.5 billion</b> (4.2%)	<b>R813.6 billion</b> (5.2%)	<b>469,765</b> (-0.8%)
(2024: R1.08 trillion)	(2023: R442.7 billion)	(2024: 6.0%)	(2024: R802.7 billion)	(2024: R773.6 billion)	(2024: 473,484)
▲	▲	▲	▼	▼	
<b>Employee earnings</b>	<b>PAYE by mining employees*</b>	<b>VAT (payments)*</b>	<b>Company tax paid*</b>	<b>Royalties*</b>	
<b>R200.2 billion</b> (+1.4%)	<b>R37.0 billion</b> (2.5%)	<b>R22.1 billion</b> (2.4%)	<b>R31.0 billion</b> (-28.7%)	<b>R10.6 billion</b> (-33.4%)	
(2024: R197.4 billion)	(2024: R36.1 billion)	(2024: R21.6 billion)	(2024: R43.6 billion)	(2024: R16 billion)	

<sup>4</sup> Based on current market prices. The annual figure is estimated by extrapolating based on the average from the first three quarters of 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Full-year employment average based on the data for the first three quarters of 2025.

\* Tax data reported by SARS for the 2024/25 financial year.

# Overview: the state of mining 2025

## Global economic developments in 2025 and the outlook for 2026

Discussing the growth prospects of the global economy is difficult without addressing the disruptive impact of the US tariffs regime. The unpredictable imposition of US tariffs have emerged as a central force influencing not just global commerce but also foreign policy, technology innovation and cooperation. Tariffs have also become the US bargaining chip in accessing minerals and metals from supplier nations. These trade measures, while aimed at strengthening domestic resilience, intersect directly with broader global trends in output and consumption.

Global GDP is expected to moderate to about 3.2% in 2025 (in real terms) and slow further to around 3.1% in 2026, supported by resilient consumption and capital investment aiding stabilisation as inflation cools in most advanced economies. World

economic growth was 3.3% in 2024. The IMF's *World Economic Outlook, October 2025* places 2025 growth at around 1.6% for advanced economies and emerging markets near 4.2%.

A focus on emerging markets, which includes key economies such as China, India, Brazil, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Nigeria and South Africa, indicates that in 2025, just as in the previous year, India will be the fastest growing economy at 6.6%. It will be followed by China (+4.8%), Saudi Arabia (+4.0%), Nigeria (+3.9%), Brazil (+2.4%), Mexico (+1%), South Africa (+1.1%) and Russia - which is currently involved in armed conflict with Ukraine - growing at 0.6%.

If we compare South Africa's growth prospects to those of other middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>6</sup>, South Africa recorded the least growth in 2024 at 0.5%, and projections by the IMF point to a continuing trend of subdued growth in 2025 (1.1%) and 2026 (1.2%).

A look into the economic performance of our key minerals and metals export markets shows, on aggregate, moderate to strong GDP growth prospects in 2025 and 2026, with India and Singapore leading, while advanced economies like the US, Japan, Italy and Germany remain slower but stable. US tariffs and global trade tensions are expected to weigh on external demand, though resilient consumption and investment provide support. We briefly look at some of these markets with a view of providing insight into what to expect in terms of overall demand for our minerals and metals exports.

Starting with China where growth of 4.5% is expected in 2025, easing to 4.2% in 2026. China has continued to deliver fiscal stimulus to support the domestic industrial sector. In response to US tariffs China expanded its list of export controls directed to the US by including rare earths. Over

<sup>6</sup>The countries include Kenya, which is projected to grow by 4.8% in 2025, Ghana (4%), Cote d'Ivoire (6.4%), Cameroon (3.8%), Senegal (0%) and Zambia (3.8%). Except for Ghana and Zambia, inflation in these countries is comparable to the prevailing average in South Africa.

## Overview: the state of mining 2025 continued

and above its reliance on the manufacturing sector China's exposure relates to its reliance on overseas demand. To the extent that both sectors are impacted by the tariffs, the resulting changes will determine the degree to which demand for our minerals is also affected. South Africa's mineral exports to China include iron ore, manganese ore and chrome ore, which are used mainly in steel manufacture. China's manufacture of crude steel seems to have peaked, and the country is under scrutiny with allegations that it sells its steel at below production cost. As a result, a number of countries have put in place anti-dumping measures against steel imports from China. This presents uncertainty as to the future

demand for the steel-related mineral exports to China from South Africa.

In the US, real GDP is projected to grow by 1.9% in 2025 and 1.8% in 2026, reflecting modest growth amid US tariff-driven trade frictions. The US is a key export market for the PGMs, aluminium, to some extent nickel ore, copper, and iron and steel (which is not exempted from the US import tariffs). US demand for most of South Africa's minerals is expected to remain robust as most of them are critical in that country's industrial processes. Diamonds, however, are not exempted from tariffs.

India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world and

is projected to grow at 6.2% in 2025 and 6.3% in 2026 (IMF), with US tariffs posing headwinds. India is South Africa's chief coal export market consuming 46% in terms of volumes. As India grows, its demand for electricity will continue to increase and, therefore, coal exports from South Africa will remain buoyant in the short to medium term. The return of severe smog especially in India's capital, New Delhi, poses doubt as to how long the country will continue using coal in its electricity generation. This is more a medium to long term question.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), which is a major export market for diamonds, is expected to grow strongly in 2025 at



# Overview: the state of mining 2025 continued

approximately 4.7% in 2025 and 5.7% in 2026, supported by diversification and robust non-oil sectors. Diamonds from the UAE are not exempt from US tariffs and are subject to a baseline 10% customs duty. This applies to both natural and lab-grown diamonds, which fall under the same US tariff classification.

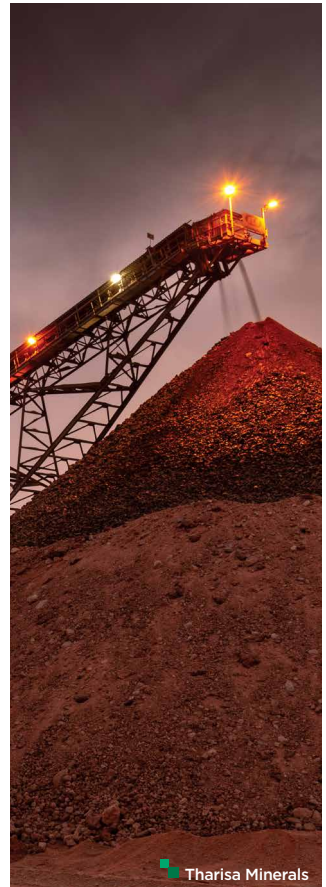
## South Africa's macroeconomic developments

GDP (Q3 2025 and full year): National Treasury now expects real GDP growth of about 1.2% in 2025, down from the 1.4% in the February/March budget, with a modest improvement to roughly 1.5% in 2026 as reforms and easing rates support demand. Economic growth in Q2 2025 was 0.8% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) with the mining industry leading gains (+3.7% q-o-q) and thus setting a firmer base into Q3 where September mining output strengthened.

The mining industry showed strong performance in Q3 2025 and remains on a positive

trajectory for the year, having led Q2 GDP growth with a 3.7% q-o-q increase, while monthly data indicates continued gains. South Africa's mining production fell sharply in November 2025, contracting by 2.7% y-o-y (unadjusted) compared with a 6.1% increase in the previous month. The decline was driven primarily by steep drops in coal, iron ore, gold and PGMs, marking an unexpected downturn in the industry. The projections for 2025 look positive with the industry expected to grow by around 1%.

Among the world's leading minerals and metals exporters, South Africa's GDP growth (1.1% in 2025, 1.2% in 2026) is among the lowest in this group. Only Canada (-0.8%, -0.1%) and Russia (0.6%, 1.0%) are weaker. In contrast, resource-driven economies like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (5.3%) and Indonesia (4.9%) are projected to grow much faster.



# Overview: the state of mining 2025 continued

## Major minerals and metals exporters and growth prospects in 2025 and 2026

Exporter	Key minerals/metals	Vulnerability to US tariffs	IMF GDP growth projections (%)	
			2025	2026
Australia	Iron ore, metallurgical coal, lithium, gold	Moderate; bulk commodities typically avoid direct US exposure	1.8	2.1
Canada	Potash, nickel, gold, aluminium	Moderate; equipment/parts tariffs can raise costs	-0.8	-0.1
Brazil	Iron ore, niobium, bauxite	Low; diversified buyers reduce direct tariff risk	2.4	1.9
Chile	Copper, lithium	Moderate; US tariff risk mainly via equipment and capital goods	2.5	2.0
China	Steel, aluminium, rare earths, graphite, magnesite	High for semi-finished metals, equipment and inputs	4.8	4.2
DRC	Copper, cobalt	Low direct; high exposure to global price and supply-chain shifts	5.3	5.3
Indonesia	Nickel, bauxite	Low to moderate; limited direct US sales, but global price effects matter	4.9	4.9
Peru	Copper, zinc, silver	Moderate; indirect exposure via supply chains and investment goods	2.9	2.7
Russia	Aluminium, nickel, palladium	US access limited; global spillovers significant	0.6	1.0
South Africa	PGMs, coal, iron ore, gold, manganese, chrome	Low to moderate; global auto and steel cycles dominate	1.1	1.2

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook October 2025, Minerals Council

# Overview: the state of mining 2025 continued

As the table indicates, South Africa's strength lies in PGMs (platinum, palladium, rhodium), which are critical for catalytic converters and the auto industry. It also exports iron ore, chrome, manganese and coal — all tied to global steel demand. This makes South Africa highly dependent on global auto and steel cycles, unlike Brazil or Chile, which are more diversified in buyers and uses.

**US tariff vulnerability:** South African mining faces low to moderate risk from US tariffs, since its exports are mostly bulk commodities and PGMs that are less directly targeted. However, indirect exposure exists through global demand shifts (e.g., if tariffs slow US auto production, PGM demand could weaken).

**Investment:** For an industry that contributes roughly 5% to GDP in real terms, the mining sector's share to the total economy's gross fixed capital formation has averaged about 12% between 2015 and 2024. Growth in real investment in the

mining industry has averaged 4.5% post-COVID, i.e., from 2021 to 2024, the highest of all the key economic sectors. In the same period real investment for the total economy averaged 1.2%. A key characteristic of investment in mining is that it is typically to sustain existing mining operations rather than new mines.

**Employment:** Formal employment in the mining industry at the end of Q2 2025 was 468,000 compared to 466,000 at the end of Q1 2025. The employment increase (q-o-q) was attributable to the chrome, coal, PGMs and gold sectors adding jobs. For context, the total non-agriculture employment averaged 10,509,000 in Q2 2025, a decline of 80,000 compared to the previous quarter. Y-o-y, comparing June 2024 and June 2025, there was a drop of 229,000 jobs. Focusing on the y-o-y formal employment performance, five of the eight sectors represented in the quarterly employment

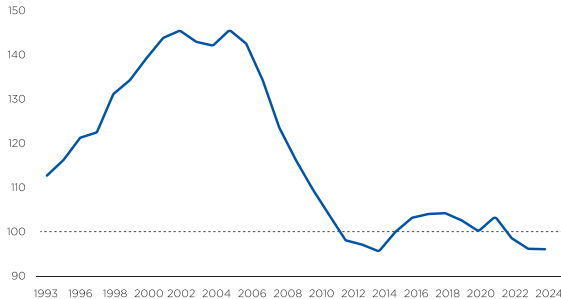
statistics (QES) shed jobs with the community services sector losing 225,000 jobs, followed by manufacturing (-18,000), mining (-6,000), transport (-3,000) and trade (-1,000). Employment increases were experienced in electricity (+1,000) and the business (+23,000) sectors in the review period (y-o-y).

## Competitiveness indicators

**Total factor productivity (TFP):** TFP captures how efficiently and effectively all inputs (labour, capital, materials, etc.) are used in producing output. The South African mining industry has generally demonstrated relative innovation, as reflected by TFP consistently exceeding the reference benchmark of 100, although its performance has become more volatile since 2011. That said, it averaged above 100 until 2022. Since then the mining industry has been producing less output per unit of combined inputs (labour and capital) than it did in 2015, signalling reduced efficiency and innovation.

# Overview: the state of mining 2025 continued

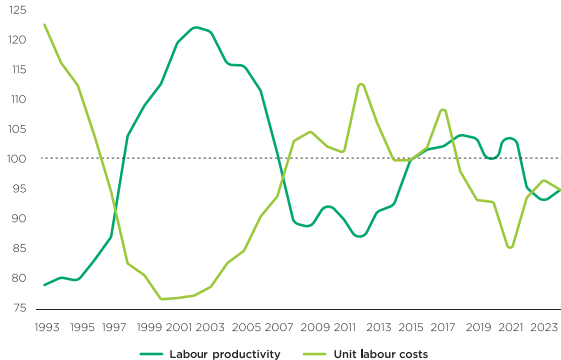
## Mining industry TFP



Sources: Quantec

**Labour productivity:** Focusing on the post-COVID period labour productivity fell sharply, slightly rebounding in 2023. This pattern suggests cyclical pressures and shifting dynamics in the industry over time.

## Mining industry labour productivity and cost



Sources: Quantec

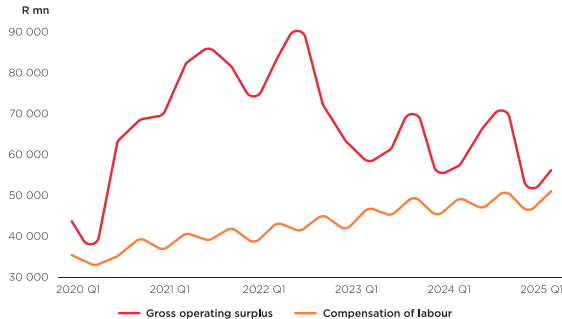
**Unit labour costs:** Post-COVID wages in the mining sector have grown more slowly than productivity. Alternatively, mining companies produce more output per unit of labour cost compared to 2015.

**Profitability and compensation of labour:** Post-COVID the mining sector's profitability, as measured by gross operating surplus<sup>7</sup> (GOS), rose substantially on account of pent-up demand for minerals and metals emanating from the COVID slump. From Q3 2023 the sector's profitability subsided and became more volatile. In Q1 2025 the sector's profits have significantly narrowed compared to compensation of employees where GOS was R49.1 billion compared to labour remuneration of R45.5 billion. In Q2 2025 GOS registered R56 billion compared to R50.9 billion of labour remuneration.

<sup>7</sup>GOS measures the income earned by companies after subtracting wages, salaries and intermediate consumption, but before deducting interest, rent, depreciation and taxes. What this means is that the squeeze on profitability in the mining industry from Q1 2025 is much narrower than the chart depicts.

# Overview: the state of mining 2025 continued

## GOS and compensation of labour



Source: Stats SA

### Key constraints:

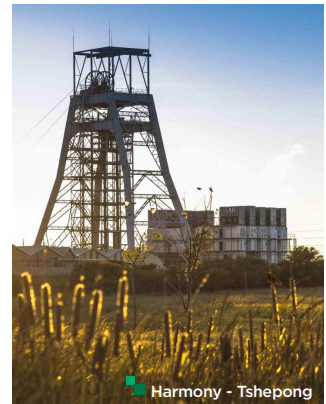
- Electricity supply and costs: Pricing, reliability and grid connection delays remain binding.
- Rail and ports: Capacity, maintenance backlogs and coordination issues raise transport costs and cycle times, undermining export competitiveness across bulk commodities.
- Wages above inflation: Multi-year settlements above the Consumer Price Index (CPI) compress profitability, especially when commodity prices soften or logistics bottlenecks persist.

### Policy developments affecting mining

- Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2025: The updated plan signals no new coal-fired builds, which is set to reshape the coal industry.
- *Critical Minerals Strategy* (2025): Government has formalised a national list and interventions (geoscience mapping, exploration incentives, value-addition, localisation and governance/implementation frameworks) to position South Africa in energy-transition supply chains and boost exploration and beneficiation.

### Trade and regulatory constraints

- Proposed chrome export tax: Cabinet signalled support for reduced electricity tariffs for smelters and a proposed export tax on chrome ore. The tax risks squeezing the sector's profitability and job losses if implemented without balanced support measures.
- MRD Bill, 2025: The draft aims to reform licensing, community participation and regulatory certainty to attract investment.



# Overview: the state of mining 2025 continued

## Outlook for the mining industry

The sector's competitiveness is constrained by high and rapidly increasing power tariffs rail and ports, and rising unit labour costs. IRP 2025 accelerates transition dynamics - pressuring coal while opening opportunities in critical minerals,

embedded generation and local manufacturing. Execution on logistics recovery, energy reliability and permitting will determine whether 2026 shifts from stabilisation to sustained growth.

The table below shows the evolution of the mining industry

in terms of production since 1994. The gold industry used to be the biggest contributor to the sector's production - contributing 42.8% in 1994. It has since declined significantly and based on the latest rebasing of 2019, the industry now contributes 10.5%.

## Trucking supported chrome and manganese export volumes

### Production: Structure of the mining sector

	1995=100	2015=100	2019=100
PGMs	11.9	22.7	27.1
Coal	23.2	27.6	26.3
Iron ore	3.0	10.2	16.4
Gold	42.8	18.9	10.5
Manganese ore	1.3	5.6	5.7
Chromium ore	1.1	3.2	4.1
Building materials	3.5	3.4	2.6
Other metallic minerals	2.4	2.1	2.8
Diamonds	4.4	3.5	2.1
Nickel	1.5	1.2	1.4
Copper	3.1	0.9	0.8
Other non-metallic minerals	2.1	0.8	0.4

Source: Stats SA, Minerals Council



# COAL

## Our metals and minerals

Coal is South Africa's most significant mining commodity by production volume, with annual output reaching approximately 236 million tonnes in 2025.



**97,666**  
Direct employees

Coal remains the backbone of South Africa's energy sector. Bituminous coal dominates production, accounting for 99% of total output, with anthracite making up the remaining 1%. Anthracite production only began in 2013 and is regarded as a high-quality product used in smelters and alloy and steel production. In 2025, coal demand remained

primarily driven by domestic consumption. The largest source of demand - and the key driver of production - was coal used for electricity generation. Eskom, in its Multiyear Price Determination (MYPD) 6 submission to the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), reported consuming approximately

108 million tonnes of coal to power its coal-fired stations in 2024/25. Sasol was another major consumer, using around 30-40 million tonnes in its operations. Together, these two entities consumed nearly two-thirds of total coal production in 2025, acting as the primary pull factor behind production.

### TOP 10 DESTINATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN COAL EXPORTS

	2025 (Jan-Nov)		2024	
	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (million tonnes)	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (million tonnes)
1 India	38.8	30.1	49.6	32.3
2 Pakistan	6.1	4.5	5.4	3.4
3 Republic of Korea	4.6	3.4	9.5	5.6
4 Taiwan Province of China	4.0	2.6	4.4	2.6
5 Japan	3.8	2.7	6.9	3.7
6 Netherlands	3.5	2.3	3.5	1.9
7 Morocco	3.0	2.1	1.1	0.6
8 Israel	2.8	1.9	1.3	0.7
9 Switzerland	2.4	2.1	2.9	2.2
10 Vietnam	2.2	1.9	7.0	5.1
<i>World</i>	<i>88.1</i>	<i>65.8</i>	<i>113.5</i>	<i>70.9</i>

Source: SARS Customs Data and Minerals Council SA

Note: The ranking is based on export values for the first 11 months of 2025.

### Our metals and minerals

The remaining third of production was destined for the export market. Annualised SARS data indicate that approximately 72 million tonnes of coal were exported in 2025. Of these volumes, 94% were handled through the privately owned and operated Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT) and the Transnet-run Port of Richards Bay, while the remaining 6% moved via land borders to neighbouring countries.

In terms of destinations, Asia dominated as the largest export market, accounting for around 80% of total exports. Within Asia, India was the leading importer, purchasing roughly 46% of South Africa's coal exports. Europe represented 10% of export volumes, up slightly from 9.3% in 2024, while Africa accounted for the remaining 10%, with shipments distributed across Northern, Eastern and Western African countries.

#### Industry developments in 2025:

- Based on observed data for the first 11 months of

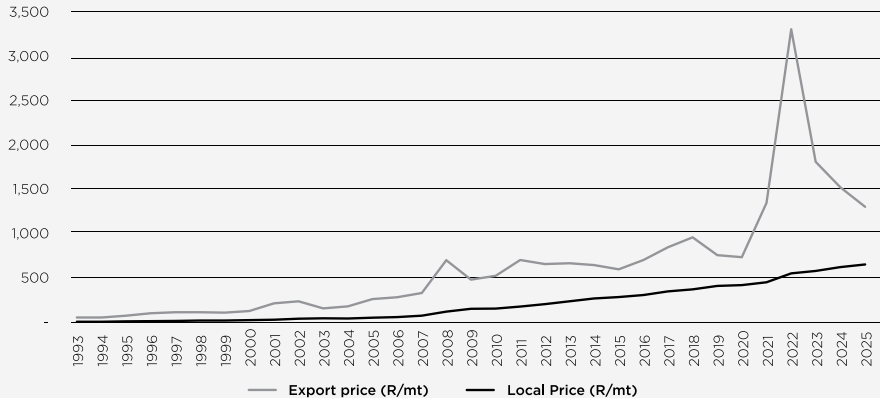
2025, annualised coal production is anticipated to be relatively flat, contracting by 0.2%, assuming the remaining month is in line with expectations. This translates to production of approximately 236 million tonnes in 2025. Compared to pre-COVID levels in 2019, production in 2025 is expected to be down by 8.9%.

- Total coal sales are expected to decline by approximately 2.6% in 2025 compared to 2024. This drop is primarily driven by flatlining production and, more significantly, a sharp 14.9% reduction in coal prices, which fell to US\$90 per metric tonne (mt) in 2025 from around US\$106/mt in 2024 and US\$122.4/mt in 2023. Price volatility has been most pronounced in export markets, while domestic coal prices have remained relatively stable. On the next page, we illustrate the differential between export coal prices and local coal prices, dispelling the notion that South Africa

fails to benefit from its coal endowment.

- Coal demand remained subdued in 2025, weighed down by global trade uncertainty and below-average economic growth. China and India continued to dominate as the largest importers and consumers of coal. Towards the end of the year, export prices experienced a modest rebound, driven by winter stockpile replenishment, stronger demand from Europe and an increase in Asian buying. In December 2025, the Richards Bay coal price averaged US\$89.2/mt, up from the US\$82-85/mt recorded in October and November. Despite this late improvement, the sector remains under pressure as the global transition away from coal continues and economic growth lags amid persistent trade tensions and geopolitical volatility.
- In 2025, coal sector employment declined for the first time in four years since

**Coal industry - export vs domestic price movements**



Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

the COVID-19 pandemic, falling to approximately 97,600 workers. While still substantial, this drop likely reflects the industry’s response to prevailing price pressures and shifting domestic and global demand for coal.

**Industry constraints:**

- The coal industry continues to grapple with insufficient

rail capacity for export shipments to global markets. Although Transnet has improved performance on the RBCT line, constraints remain. Current exports through RBCT are tracking at an annualised rate of 56.8 million tonnes, up from 51.9 million tonnes in 2024. However, with an installed capacity of 91 million tonnes, RBCT is still operating at barely half its

potential. Transnet, through its operational and reform initiatives, is targeting 81 million tonnes, slightly below the record 84 million tonnes exported in 2017.

- Crime, vandalism and cable theft continue to plague the coal corridor. The line, which relies heavily on electricity to power locomotives, is particularly vulnerable to copper cable theft and other

### Our metals and minerals

criminal activities that disrupt operations. Coal companies are working closely with Transnet to secure the 600 km rail link from the coal fields to Richards Bay, aiming to mitigate the impact of these incidents on export capacity. This collaboration has delivered positive results, significantly reducing the frequency of theft and vandalism. Despite the added costs and normalised price levels in the sector, enhanced security along the corridor provides substantial benefits to collieries by improving reliability and safeguarding export flows.

#### Industry outlook:

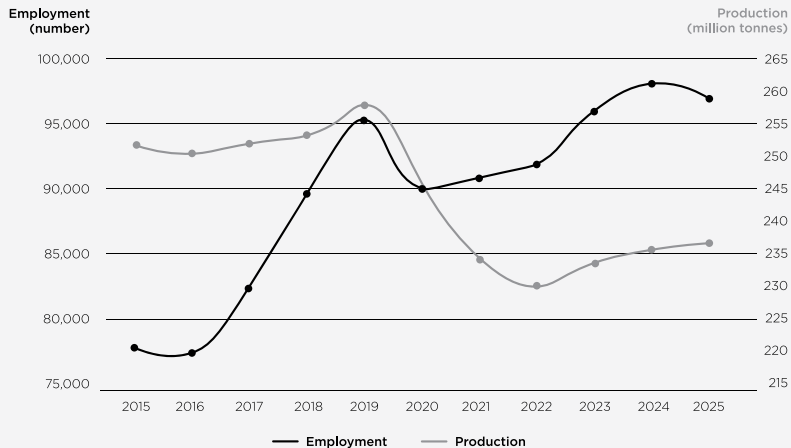
- The most significant domestic policy impacting the coal industry is the IRP 2025, released in November 2025, which projects a sharp decline in domestic coal consumption. Under the new IRP, coal-based electricity generation as a share of Eskom's installed capacity will fall from the

current 59% to just 11% by 2042. Cumulatively, unless coal-fired power stations adopt carbon capture or other clean technologies, this translates into a reduction of roughly 62 million tonnes of coal consumed by Eskom, bringing annual usage down to around 40 million tonnes from the current 108 million tonnes. By all indications, this signals a challenging outlook for the coal sector and production over the next two decades.

- Sentiment towards coal appears to be shifting, with a measure of optimism returning to the commodity. Two key factors underpin this trend. First, the Trump administration has introduced policy changes that enable financing institutions to reinvest in fossil fuels, including pressure on organisations such as the World Bank and IMF to increase support for these sectors. Second, there is growing recognition that coal will remain essential in

the short to medium term to meet baseload power needs, particularly as AI-driven electricity demand surges globally and South Africa's transmission grid expansion lags, limiting the integration of renewables. Overall, these dynamics suggest a more favourable outlook for coal in the near to medium term.



**Coal industry - employment and production**


Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

<b>COAL</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>% change on prior year (2025 vs. 2024)</b>	<b>2025 % change on 2019 (pre-COVID)</b>
Direct employees	<b>97,666</b>	-0.7%	2.4%
Employee earnings (rand billion)	<b>36.2</b>	-0.8%	24.1%
Royalties (rand billion)	<b>2.7</b>	-28.6%	30.4%
Production (million tonnes)	<b>235.5</b>	-0.2%	-8.9%
Total sales (rand billion)	<b>195.3</b>	-2.6%	38.0%

Source: DMPR, SARS and Minerals Council

# PLATINUM GROUP METALS

## Our metals and minerals

PGMs consist of six noble metals, i.e., platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, osmium and iridium. Platinum, palladium, rhodium and iridium are the primary metals of significant economic value.

PGMs are used across a wide range of industrial applications, most notably in the automotive industry where platinum and palladium's exceptional catalytic properties are highly prized. One of their key advantages is recyclability - PGMs in catalytic converters can be recovered and reused even after 20 years of service in a vehicle, making them a highly coveted and efficient resource. PGMs are also used in fuel cells, where they facilitate the conversion of chemical energy into electrical energy. In addition, they are commonly used for investment purposes in the form of coins, bars and exchange-traded funds due to their intrinsic value and scarcity.

PGMs are essential in diverse industrial applications thanks to their high melting points,



**171,689**  
Direct employees

excellent conductivity and corrosion resistance. They play a critical role in medical technology, including implants, diagnostic tools and radiation therapy, and are equally important in electronics for components such as semiconductors, capacitors and transistors. Their versatility extends to fibreglass and display glass manufacturing. South Africa remains a global leader, hosting around 80% of the world's PGM reserves and dominating world supply.

### Industry developments in 2025:

- All indicators point to a second, consecutive decline in PGM sector employment in 2025, mirroring the ongoing contraction in production. While prices for PGMs have strengthened, the industry seems to have undergone

structural adjustments. Notably, PGMs were fully exempt from tariffs in the global trade environment - an explicit recognition of their critical importance and the need to maintain unrestricted supply.

- Due to severe weather and flooding in the first quarter of 2025, PGM production is estimated to have declined by about 4.1%, totalling approximately 246 tonnes. While producers managed some recovery by processing stockpiles and selling semi-finished material, overall output is still projected to end the year in deficit. Current production levels remain roughly 8.3% below pre-COVID benchmarks. Looking ahead, the market is expected to swing into surplus in 2026 as production

## PLATINUM GROUP METALS *continued*

### Our metals and minerals

- in South Africa and Zimbabwe strengthens.
- Overall, 2025 appears to mark a turning point after several years of subdued prices and

structural adjustments. With the pricing environment for PGMs improving, production is expected to recover, and previously delayed or deferred

investments and expansion projects are anticipated to resume from 2026 onward.

TOP 10 DESTINATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PGM EXPORTS		2025 (Jan-Nov)		2024	
		Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (tonnes)	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (tonnes)
1	United States	58.5	74.3	49.8	71.1
2	Japan	54.2	64.1	51.4	67.5
3	United Kingdom	25.6	33.5	37.3	56.2
4	Germany	19.0	23.9	18.3	26.8
5	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	15.1	15.5	17.6	25.8
6	China	9.1	11.8	4.9	10.3
7	Republic of Korea	2.0	3.1	1.0	1.7
8	Switzerland	1.6	2.5	1.0	1.8
9	Luxembourg	0.6	0.4	-	-
10	Italy	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.2
	<i>World</i>	<i>186.6</i>	<i>289.0</i>	<i>182.5</i>	<i>286.5</i>

Source: SARS Customs Data and Minerals Council SA

Note: The ranking is based on export values for the first 11 months of 2025.

### PGM prices:

PGM prices rebounded in 2025, providing much-needed relief to the sector. This recovery, however, was driven more by sentiment than by underlying demand fundamentals, as most sources of demand are expected to decline - except for jewellery and investment demand. Investment demand,

in particular, positioned PGMs similarly to gold, serving as a hedge against trade uncertainty and dollar weakness. For the first seven months of 2025, the 5E dollar basket price averaged US\$1,421.9, up 10.9% compared to the same period in 2024. Among individual metals, all recorded average price increases except iridium. For the full year:

- Platinum averaged US\$1,288.40 per ounce in 2025, representing a 33.5% y-o-y increase.
- Palladium posted an average of US\$1,162.30 per ounce, up 16.8% y-o-y, though still well below its May 2021 peak of US\$2,896.80 per ounce.
- Rhodium saw the sharpest rise, climbing 35.2% y-o-y to

# PLATINUM GROUP METALS continued

## Our metals and minerals

an average of US\$6,269.40 per ounce, yet far from its 2022 average of US\$15,501 per ounce.

- Among the minor PGMs, iridium was the only metal to decline, averaging US\$4,399.20 per ounce, a 7.6% drop from 2024. In contrast, ruthenium surged, averaging US\$731.40 per ounce, marking a 67.2% increase over the same period.

### % change in average PGM prices (2025)

	R/troy ounce	US\$/troy ounce
Platinum	29.3%	33.5%
Palladium	13.2%	16.8%
Rhodium	31.1%	35.2%
Iridium	-10.1%	-7.6%
Ruthenium	62.0%	67.3%

Source: Johnson Matthey, Minerals Council

- In 2025, the rand strengthened against the US dollar by 2.5% y-o-y and appreciated against other major trading currencies, with the Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) rising by 1% during the first 11

months of 2025. As a result, rand-denominated prices rose at a slower pace than dollar-based prices, which in turn slightly dampened export earnings compared to what would have been expected from the dollar price increases alone.

### Industry constraints:

- Most PGM production takes place in deep-level underground mines, which are both costly - due to significant fixed expenses for ventilation, cooling and pumping - and labour-intensive. The geological conditions of PGM deposits often result in underground temperatures exceeding those in gold mining operations, negatively impacting productivity. Efforts to mechanise these mines or modernise equipment to offset productivity losses remain constrained and require substantial capital investment.
- South African PGM miners

- predominantly located in the North West and Limpopo provinces face increasingly complex and sometimes conflicting expectations from key stakeholders, including host communities, government authorities, organised labour and investors. Mining contributes nearly a third of the North West's GDP, creating heavy reliance on the sector, which employs more than 170,000 people. This dependency, combined with poor municipal infrastructure and the expectation that mining companies provide goods and services typically delivered by local municipalities, places significant and undue pressure on the industry.

- PGM miners continue to grapple with escalating electricity costs - a major component of input expenses due to the need for deep-level cooling and ventilation, and the refining process. Over the past two decades, electricity tariffs

### Our metals and minerals

have surged by more than 900%, severely eroding the sector's competitiveness. Annual electricity bills run into billions, prompting producers to invest heavily in renewable and alternative green energy sources. Capital that could have supported expansion and growth is being diverted to instead offset soaring power costs.

#### Industry outlook:

- The automotive sector remains the largest driver of PGM demand, accounting for roughly 39% of total consumption. However, the industry has faced a turbulent year. While PGMs remain US tariff exempt, the impact of tariffs on the global economy has caused volatility, inducing indirect impacts that repeatedly reshape forecasts for internal combustion engines (ICE). While the transition to battery electric vehicles (BEVs) has been slower than anticipated - and temporary

regulatory reprieves in Europe on carbon emissions have sustained demand for catalytic converters - this support is only partial. Hydrogen fuel cell adoption is growing and, because these cells utilise PGMs, they offer potential to partially offset the demand lost from PGMs in ICE engines. However, current adoption levels are still not sufficient to fully compensate for the decline in ICE-related demand. Among the most efficient hydrogen fuel cells are the polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cells, which use platinum as a catalyst. Overall, automotive demand for PGMs via catalytic converters is expected to remain steady rather than rebound, with no significant reversal of the downward trend.

- Platinum jewellery increased its share of total demand to approximately 28% in 2025, up from 24% in 2024. This growth is driven primarily by Chinese consumers, fuelling

a surge in platinum jewellery fabrication. With gold prices at record highs, the widening price gap between gold and platinum has made platinum an attractive alternative. According to the World Platinum Investment Council's Q3 2025 report, global platinum jewellery demand is projected to rise by 7% y-o-y, reaching 2,157 koz.

- Investment demand for platinum remains a key driver of overall PGM consumption. In 2025, approximately 9% of total PGM demand was attributed to investment. Platinum coin and bar demand surged by more than 70%, driven primarily by strong buying in China, which accounts for about 70% of global investment demand - the largest share by far. While there is also notable investment interest in North America and Japan, these markets remain significantly smaller compared to China.
- The hydrogen economy, though still in its early

## PLATINUM GROUP METALS continued

### Our metals and minerals

stages, holds significant potential for future PGM demand as global efforts to reduce carbon emissions accelerate. Hydrogen - a clean and versatile energy carrier - is gaining traction across applications, ranging from fuel cells in transportation to power generation, and currently accounts for around 0.6% of total PGM demand.

PGMs such as platinum, palladium, ruthenium and iridium are essential catalysts in hydrogen fuel cell technology. At present, demand from the hydrogen economy remains minimal, with growth in stationary power generation and mobility applications unevenly distributed worldwide. Regions like Europe, Japan and China

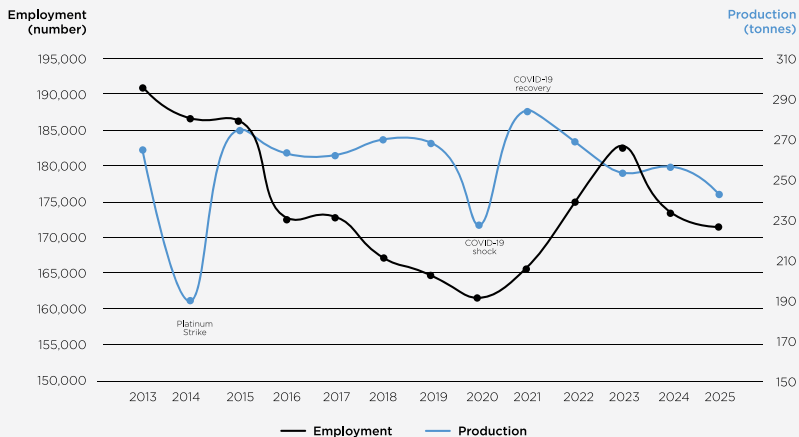
are advancing deployment through supportive policies and incentives, while adoption in North America and the Middle East lags due to policy uncertainty and other challenges. The hydrogen economy still poses significant upside to the PGM sector, if we can unlock widespread usage of hydrogen technologies in our economy.



# PLATINUM GROUP METALS continued

## Our metals and minerals

### PGM industry – employment and production



Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

PGM	2025	% change on prior year (2025 vs. 2024)	2025 % change on 2019 (pre-COVID)
	Direct employees	171,689	-1.0%
Employee earnings (rand billion)	79.5	1.7%	43.1%
Royalties (rand million)	876	-75.7%	-22.3%
Production (tonnes)	246.0	-4.1%	-8.3%
Total sales (rand billion)	200.3	15.7%	47.2%

Source: DMPR, Minerals Council and SARS

## GOLD

### Our metals and minerals

Gold remains one of the world's most coveted metals revered for its beauty and symbolism, and held as a store of value. This versatile metal is malleable, conductive and does not tarnish, making it ideal for use in jewellery and many industrial applications. Central banks buy and hold gold as a currency reserve.

In a year marked by geopolitical tensions, volatile trade and an unpredictable global economy, gold reaffirmed its role as a key hedge against inflation and geopolitical risk. Prices surged to an all-time high in January 2026, exceeding even the most bullish forecasts. A major driver of this rally was central bank buying, as reserve banks increased gold holdings to mitigate dollar risk and diversify foreign reserves.

#### Industry developments in 2025:

- In 2025, the average gold price rose sharply by 44.1% y-o-y, following a 22.9% increase in 2024, both in US dollar terms. The



**89,739**  
Direct employees

average price in 2025 was approximately US\$3,440 per ounce. As the rand strengthened in 2025, the rand-denominated gold price climbed by 40.5% y-o-y. Following the lead-up to events in South America and the continued global geopolitical volatility, gold breached US\$5,000 per ounce in late January 2026.

- The surge in gold prices has enabled South African producers to maintain operations at marginal deposits, as higher prices improved profitability. This favourable environment has also supported shaft extensions and sustained investment in low-cost tailings treatment across the industry.
- The recent price movements have driven a notable

increase in gold sales, which are projected to reach more around R167 billion in 2025 - about 17.4% higher than in 2024. This surge is expected to significantly benefit the fiscus, with National Treasury reporting in November 2025 that revenues from the gold and PGM sectors have exceeded initial estimates. For the first 11 months of 2025, Stats SA data showed that gold sales were over R19 billion more than in the same period in 2024.

- Despite the surge in gold prices, South African gold production in 2025 is projected to decline by 1.9%, to roughly 88.5 tonnes. While elevated prices provide some relief, the industry continues to grapple with structural

**Our metals and minerals**

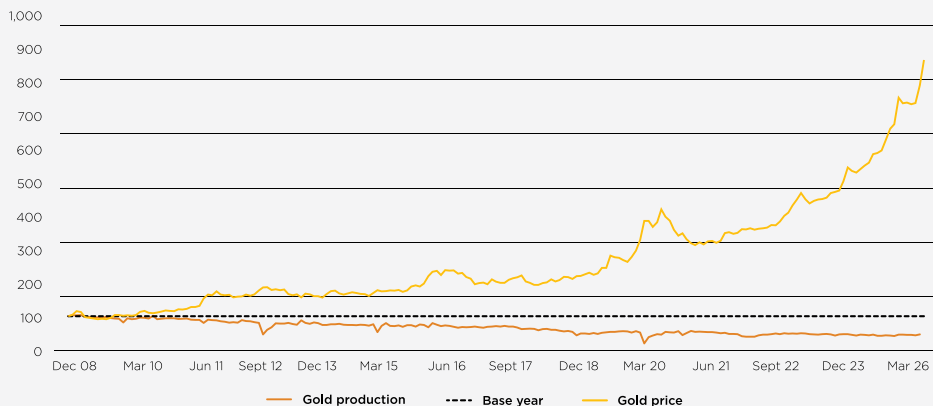
challenges. South Africa's gold reserves are deep and costly to mine, and most operations are decades

old. Although reserves and resources remain significant, accessing them is both technically

complex and expensive - key constraints in an increasingly competitive global market.

**Gold industry - production and price divergence**

Dec 2008=100



Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

**Industry constraints:**

- The cost of production in South Africa's gold sector remains elevated due to several structural and operational factors. Mining is geologically defined by deep-level operations,

which significantly increase time and cost as workers must travel long distances to reach the mine face. Electricity tariffs have risen at rates well above inflation, adding further pressure to operating expenses. Labour

costs continue to climb, driven by above-inflation wage settlements and rising unit labour costs, while productivity has remained static or declined since 2019. In addition, TFP has deteriorated, reflecting

**Our metals and minerals**

limited progress in the ability to adopt technology and to innovate.

- As it relates to electricity tariffs, Eskom's MYPD 6 submission proposes increases of 36.15% in FY26, 11.81% in FY27 and 9.10% in FY28. NERSA ultimately approved lower increases in February 2025 – specifically a 12.74% increase for FY26, a 5.36% increase for FY27 and a 6.19% increase for FY28 – the total increase over the next three years still amounts to approximately 25%. However, two developments subsequently unfolded:
  - **Error in allowable tariff calculations:** NERSA and Eskom reached an out-of-court settlement granting Eskom an additional R54 billion in revenue after NERSA admitted in September 2025 to an error in the regulatory asset base valuation that resulted in incorrect tariff determinations. The additional revenue was planned to be phased in

over the next two financial years. Consequently, instead of the previously approved 5.36% increase for FY27, the effective adjustment will be 8.76%, and for FY28, the increase will rise from 6.19% to 8.83%.

- However, in December 2025, the Gauteng High Court ruled that it would not make the settlement between NERSA and Eskom an order of the court, noting that such a decision requires public participation, as was the case with the MYPD 6 submission. Following this, NERSA scheduled a public consultation in January 2026 to gather written input on the revised R76 billion electricity tariff adjustment, intended to compensate Eskom for regulatory errors after the utility claimed it had been short-changed by R107 billion. NERSA is expected to issue its final determination early in

2026 after completing the public participation process.

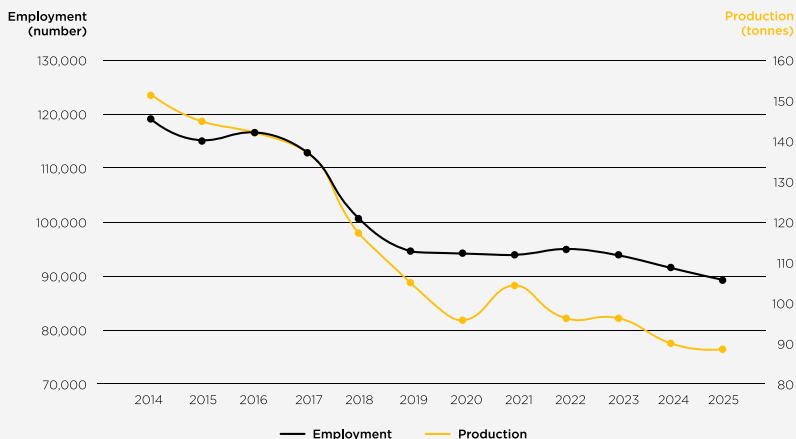
- **NERSA market inquiry:** In 2025, members of the Minerals Council, the Energy Intensive Users Group (EIUG) and the Ferroalloys Producers of South Africa (FAPA) raised concerns that electricity tariff increases exceeded NERSA's approved 12.74% for FY26. The issue was escalated to NERSA, prompting the regulator to launch a market inquiry into the increases. Submissions closed in November 2025, and the regulator's decision is still pending.
  - Preliminary indicators suggest that changes to Eskom's Retail Tariff Plan have resulted in additional costs for consumers, influenced by factors such as line voltage and distance from substations.

## Our metals and minerals

### Industry outlook:

- Gold demand has risen sharply alongside price increases. According to the World Gold Council, investment demand - particularly bars, coins and central bank purchases - is driving this growth. Jewellery demand, while still significant, has been contracting due to sustained high prices. Gold export data is not included here, as most exports are classified as 'unclassified', reflecting the complex nature of gold trading. Typically, gold produced is refined in South Africa or Switzerland, shipped through London and then flown to its final destination. Adding to the complexity, central banks are not obligated to disclose purchases, often citing concerns about front-running the market, influencing price movements or political sensitivities. As a result, not all central bank transactions - collected by the IMF on a voluntary basis - are reported.
- There is no indication that gold prices will reverse in 2026. Key drivers - including geopolitical tensions, dollar weakness, central bank buying, hedging strategies and strong activity in exchange-traded funds as well as bar and coin investments - remain firmly in place. These factors are expected to keep gold prices hovering above the US\$4,000 per ounce level.
- South Africa's gold sector urgently requires structural reforms to address the electricity affordability crisis and introduce stronger incentives for exploration to improve its investment outlook. Electricity accounts for a significant share of intermediate input costs due to the energy-intensive nature of deep-level mining, and the steep, escalating trajectory of tariffs poses a major challenge. Despite substantial remaining reserves, high energy costs and generally elevated operating expenses, constrain South Africa's ability to attract investment and capitalise on its resource base in the current high-price environment.



**Gold industry – employment and production**


Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>% change on prior year change on 2019 (2025 vs. 2024)</b>	<b>2025 % change on 2019 (pre-COVID)</b>
Direct employees	<b>89,739</b>	-2.2%	-5.3%
Employee earnings (rand billion)	<b>36.5</b>	1.6%	37.7%
Royalties (rand billion)	<b>1.3</b>	48.9%	368.6%
Production (tonnes)	<b>88.5</b>	-1.9%	-15.9%
Total sales (rand billion)	<b>167.4</b>	17.4%	118.5%

Source: DMPR, Minerals Council and SARS

## IRON ORE

### Our metals and minerals

Iron is the most common element on earth, comprising most of the planet's inner and outer core. Around 95% of South Africa's iron ore production is high-quality hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ), which is sought after for steelmaking. South Africa accounts for around 4% of global iron ore exports.

Iron ore is fundamentally tied to global steel production, as nearly all mined iron ore is used to produce steel - a material essential for construction, infrastructure, transportation and numerous manufacturing industries.

In construction, steel is indispensable for buildings, bridges, rail networks, roads and other major infrastructure projects. In manufacturing, steel derived from iron ore is critical for producing vehicles, ships, trains and other transportation equipment, as well as machinery, appliances, tools and a wide range of industrial products.



# 21,861

Direct employees

### Industry developments in 2025:

- South African iron ore production is projected to grow by about 1.7% in 2025, reaching 63.9 million tonnes compared to 62.8 million tonnes in 2024. However, average iron ore prices declined by 6.6% to around US\$104 per dry metric tonne unit (dmtu) in 2025. This price drop is estimated to have driven a 8.7% decrease in sales for the year. South African iron ore sales are closely tied to Chinese steel production and broader Asian steel demand. Countries such as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea account for over 90% of global merchant shipbuilding capacity - a highly steel-intensive industry. In addition to being a major

steel consumer, China is also a significant exporter. On the production side, concerns over unfair trade practices have led roughly 15 countries, including South Africa, to implement anti-dumping measures against Chinese steel imports, citing allegations that China sells steel below production cost.

- Beyond price-related impacts on sales, the sector's inability to offset lower prices with higher volumes was largely due to Transnet's constrained rail performance on the Sishen-Saldanha line. Although there was a slight improvement in performance during the year, persistent constraints - including derailments and occasional equipment failures - continued to hamper production. As a

## IRON ORE continued

### Our metals and minerals

result, iron ore producers drew down stockpiles and kept output throttled, while inventories at the Saldanha port accumulated.

- According to SARS data for the first 11 months of 2025, all indications are that an annualised 64.4 million tonnes of iron ore were exported in 2025. For context, South Africa's iron ore exports peaked at

68 million tonnes in 2021, and this includes exports via rail and road. Of this total, more than 70% was destined for Asia (with around 53% shipped to China, 8.9% to the Republic of Korea and 5.7% to Japan). Europe accounted for around 16% of exports, while nearly 11% went to Africa. The table illustrates South Africa's top 10 export

markets for iron ore.

- The Port of Saldanha Bay remained the primary hub for iron ore exports, handling roughly 80% of South Africa's shipments. The Transnet-operated Port of Richards Bay accounted for about 7%, while approximately 13% of exports moved through the Komatipoort land border en route to the Port of Maputo.

TOP 10 DESTINATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN IRON ORE EXPORTS		2025 (Jan-Nov)		2024	
		Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (million tonnes)	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (million tonnes)
1	China	50.5	31.3	55.7	33.4
2	Netherlands	9.9	5.7	14.0	7.3
3	Republic of Korea	9.6	5.3	9.6	5.1
4	Mozambique	9.4	6.3	12.0	6.4
5	Japan	6.0	3.3	6.8	3.3
6	Germany	2.8	1.6	2.7	1.5
7	Slovenia	2.3	1.3	2.1	1.1
8	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	1.9	1.4	0.1	0.1
9	Vietnam	1.4	0.8	1.0	0.6
10	India	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.1
	<i>World</i>	<i>97.4</i>	<i>59.0</i>	<i>108.4</i>	<i>61.2</i>

Source: SARS Customs Data and Minerals Council SA

Note: The ranking is based on export values for the first 11 months of 2025.

## Our metals and minerals

### Industry constraints:

- Since 2024, the iron ore sector has restructured and adjusted its production plans to align with the capacity constraints of the Saldanha rail corridor.

Consequently, companies have lowered production targets, as the current rail and port infrastructure cannot accommodate higher output and export volumes. Nonetheless,

producers retain significant short-term capacity to ramp up production if logistics improve. Encouragingly, Transnet's performance on the iron ore line has shown steady progress.

In August 2025, the Department of Transport announced that 11 private train operating companies (TOCs) have been approved to run 41 routes across all six Transnet corridors, transporting commodities such as coal, chrome, iron ore, manganese and magnetite. The next phase involves negotiations and contracting. Transnet projects that this initiative will add an extra 20 million tonnes of freight in the 2026/27 financial year and unlock an estimated R100 billion in new investment.

- Water remains a critical priority in the Northern Cape, not only for local communities but also for mining operations. The Minerals Council's Northern Cape Mines Leadership Forum continues to collaborate with the provincial government and the Department of Water and Sanitation to ensure a reliable and cost-effective supply from the Vaal Gamagara Water Supply Scheme (VGGWSS). This

scheme is essential for mining activities in the region, including iron ore, diamond and manganese operations. Mining companies collectively invest millions of rand to support the maintenance and functioning of this vital but aged infrastructure.

### Industry outlook:

- The Northern Cape-to-Saldanha Bulk Minerals Corridor, which primarily transports iron ore along

its 800-kilometre route, has improved contractual capacity to about 84%, up from 80% in 2024. The line's nameplate capacity stands at roughly 60 million tonnes per year. This performance improvement, combined with ongoing reforms at Transnet and the introduction of private operators, signals a positive outlook for future iron ore exports.

- Of the announced private-sector operators, only a

### Our metals and minerals

few are expected to begin operations in 2026. One or 2 of the 11 TOCs have indicated immediate ability to supplement Transnet's services in the second half of 2026, while most others anticipate starting only in 2027/28. The biggest constraint remains funding, as many private operators require financial assistance to support their business activities. Additionally, the condition of the infrastructure network is a key concern. Transnet

- estimates it requires R12 - 13 billion annually to upgrade the network to a standard that can accommodate private operators.
- Chinese demand continues to dominate global iron ore price movements, driven largely by steel manufacturing and broader economic conditions. Steel output in China appears to have peaked, with production falling below 1 billion tonnes in 2025 - the first time since 2019 - amid a prolonged slowdown in

property and construction sectors.

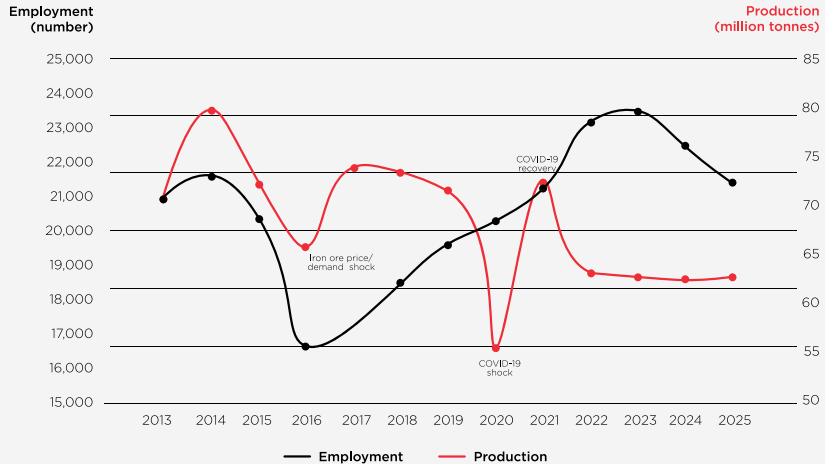
- Despite this, China's iron ore purchases have not declined, primarily due to stockpile replenishment. This restocking should support prices and demand in early 2026, though the longer-term outlook remains uncertain. Iron ore prices are expected to gradually soften as Guinea's massive Simandou mine, with a capacity of 120 million tonnes per year, ramps up production.



# IRON ORE continued

## Our metals and minerals

### Iron ore industry – employment and production



Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

IRON ORE	2025	% change on prior year change on 2019	
		(2025 vs. 2024)	(pre-COVID)
Direct employees	<b>21,861</b>	-2.7%	10.5%
Employee earnings (rand billion)	<b>10.8</b>	6.0%	54.3%
Royalties (rand billion)	<b>2.6</b>	-36.7%	23.7%
Production (million tonnes)	<b>63.9</b>	1.7%	-11.7%
Total sales (rand billion)	<b>83.5</b>	-8.7%	18.1%

Source: DMPR, Minerals Council and SARS

# CHROME

## Our metals and minerals

**Chromite ore mined in South Africa is processed to extract chrome, which is then concentrated or blended with other materials and smelted in electric arc furnaces to produce ferrochrome - a high-chromium alloy typically combined with iron. Ferrochrome is a key component in stainless steel production, widely used in applications ranging from kitchenware to industrial machinery. South Africa is host to the world's largest chrome deposits and is the largest exporter of chrome ore.**

South Africa set for another record year in chrome ore production, exceeding 23 million tonnes.

South Africa primarily exports chrome concentrates, having lost its competitive edge in ferrochrome production to China over recent decades. In 2024, the country produced just over 3 million tonnes of ferrochrome. By 2025, much of the industry had been mothballed, with production



**26,817**  
Direct employees

estimated at around 2 to 3 million tonnes for the year.

### Industry developments in 2025:

- Although final data for 2025 is still pending, all indicators suggest another record year for chrome production. Output is estimated to have grown by about 2.9% y-o-y, reaching approximately 23.6 million tonnes. This continues the upward trend in chrome ore production and is accompanied by employment gains - the primary chrome sector now employs close to 27,000 people, up 3.8% from the previous year.
- Sales are expected to show a y-o-y increase of about 1.8%, totalling roughly R64.6 billion compared to R63.5 billion in 2024. This increase is primarily linked to increased exports, despite a decrease in average chrome prices which fell between 8% and 12% in 2025, depending on lump grade. While higher production and sales volumes provided some offset, the price decline ultimately weighed on overall revenue.
- According to SARS data, South Africa exported 21.5 million tonnes of chrome ore in the first 11 months of 2025. At an annualised rate, exports are projected to reach about 23.4 million tonnes for the year, setting a record, up from the previous high of 20.5 million tonnes in 2024.
- The table below shows the top 10 export destinations for chrome ores and concentrates: approximately 51% was shipped directly

## Our metals and minerals

to China, 28% to African countries and nearly 1% to the European Union (EU). Notably, exports listed as

destined for Mozambique largely reflect chrome ore transported via the Komatipoort land border

to the Port of Maputo, an intermediary route before reaching final destinations, primarily China.

### TOP 10 DESTINATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME ORE EXPORTS

	2025 (Jan-Nov)		2024	
	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (million tonnes)	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (million tonnes)
1 China	42.2	11.0	40.8	10.1
2 Mozambique	23.4	6.1	34.2	8.2
3 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	7.0	1.8	1.6	0.5
4 Indonesia	2.5	0.6	1.2	0.3
5 United Arab Emirates	2.0	0.5	1.1	0.3
6 Singapore	1.9	0.6	1.2	0.4
7 India	1.9	0.4	1.4	0.2
8 Netherlands	0.6	0.1	0.7	0.1
9 Turkey	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.1
10 United Kingdom	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
<i>World</i>	<i>83.5</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>84.6</i>	<i>20.5</i>

Source: SARS Customs Data and Minerals Council SA

Note: The ranking is based on export values for the first 11 months of 2025.

### Industry constraints:

- One of the most significant potential constraints is the proposed export tax on chrome ore. In June 2025, Cabinet announced three approved interventions aimed at halting the decline in South Africa's ferrochrome smelting capacity:
  - Preferential electricity tariffs for ferrochrome smelters to address high energy costs - a key factor undermining competitiveness - along with the use of special economic zones to provide tax breaks and other incentives. For ferrochrome smelters to be globally competitive the electricity tariffs should be approximately R0.60/kWh compared to the current rate of almost R2/kWh.
  - Permit requirements for chrome exporters through the International Trade Administration Commission of South

### Our metals and minerals

Africa, intended to curb illegal exports. However, the Minerals Council strongly opposes any expansion of this system to impose export quotas or restrictions on legally mined chrome. Current estimates suggest that roughly 10% of South Africa's chrome output is illegally mined.

- An export tax on chrome concentrate. This proposal has surfaced repeatedly but was previously shelved following extensive consultations with the Minerals Council's chrome members.
- The June Cabinet statement was followed by the release of the 10-Point Economic Action Plan by the majority party in the Government of National Unity (GNU), released on 6 October 2025, which stated: "The third intervention is to rebuild our chrome and manganese industries. We will finalise chrome and

manganese export tariffs, implement defensive duties on dumped imports, and expand alloys and battery precursor production." Government documents estimate the proposed export tax could range from 5% to 25%. However, research conducted by the industry and the Minerals Council clearly demonstrates that such taxes would fail to achieve the Government's objectives of sustaining the ferrochrome industry and preserving jobs. High electricity prices are the key reason for the closure of ferrochrome smelters and not the availability nor the price of chrome. Export tax measures would instead harm chrome producers and undermine the sector's substantial economic contributions and employment.

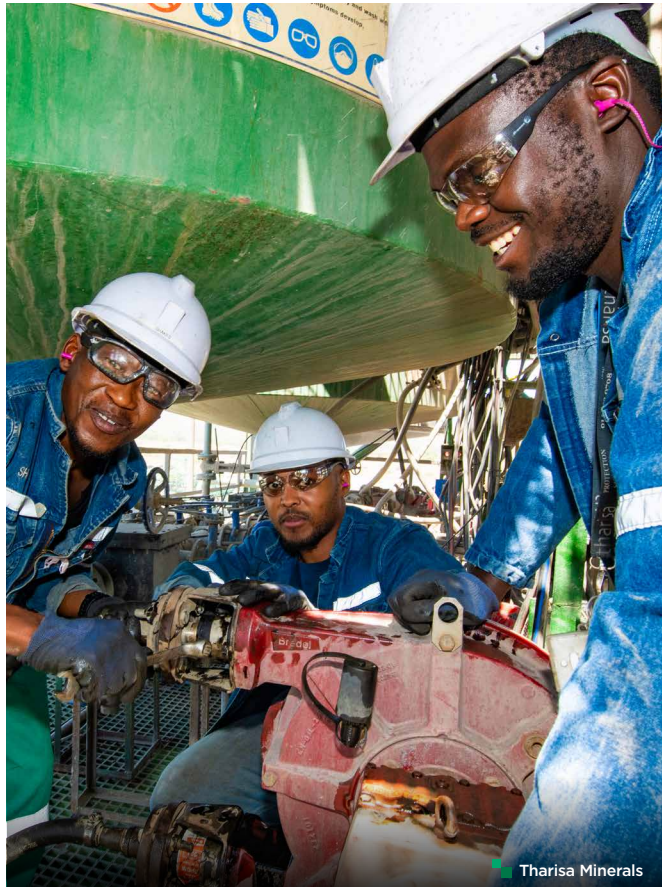
- Due to strong global demand for chrome and high export volumes, significant pressure persists

on export routes for chrome ore and concentrates. Recent improvements in cross-border movement and coordination by SARS Customs and other government agencies, along with greater efficiency in truck-based exports via Komatipoort, have reduced border queues to just 3 kilometres - down from an average of 19 kilometres in 2023/24. However, the surge in trucking to Maputo has led to substantial revenue losses for Transnet-operated ports and rail, which remain unable to accommodate higher export volumes. Current estimates indicate approximately 9 million tonnes of chrome ore transported by road annually - equivalent to more than 826 trucks per day - at a cost premium of about 40% compared to rail.

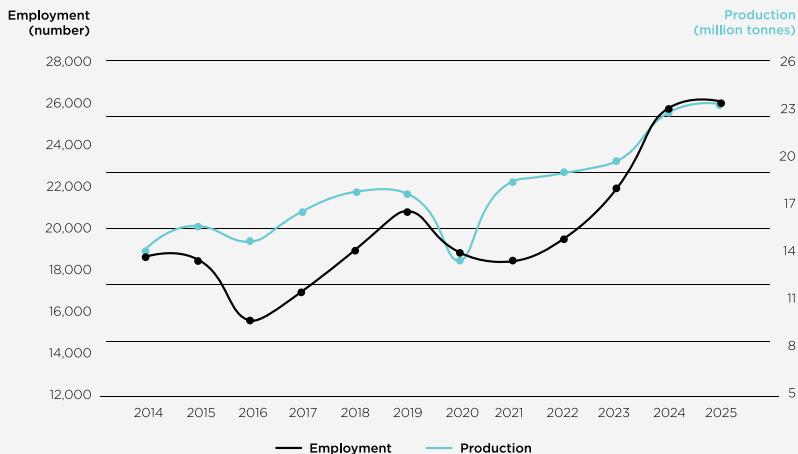
### Our metals and minerals

#### Industry outlook:

- Chrome exports continue to drive sectoral activity, fuelled by strong demand from China. The industry faces pivotal dynamics in 2026: without long-term, sustainable solutions to ensure competitive ferrochrome production, South Africa's smelting industry is at risk of shutting down entirely. This would redirect millions of tonnes of chrome ore - currently destined for ferrochrome processing - into the export market. Such a shift could potentially double trucking volumes on export routes, placing even greater strain on infrastructure, particularly along the N4 corridor to Maputo. Over the past 3 years, including 2025, more than 50% of South Africa's total chrome export tonnage has moved through Komatipoort en route to Maputo.



### Chrome industry – employment and production



Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

CHROME	2025	% change on prior year (2025 vs. 2024)	2025 % change on 2019 (pre-COVID)
	Direct employees	<b>26,817</b>	3.8%
Employee earnings (rand billion)	<b>10.1</b>	10.1%	58.5%
Royalties (rand million)	<b>N/A</b>	-	-
Production (million tonnes)	<b>23.6</b>	2.9%	33.4%
Total sales (rand billion)	<b>64.6</b>	1.8%	191.7%

Source: DMPR, Minerals Council and SARS

# MANGANESE

## Our metals and minerals

South Africa is home to approximately 70% of the world's known manganese resources and boasts the largest proven reserves globally. The country is also the world's leading producer of manganese ore, accounting for about 40% of the global export market.

Manganese is a critical component in steelmaking, where it enhances strength and toughness by reducing brittleness. It also serves as a powerful deoxidiser, prevents corrosion, improves abrasion resistance and increases steel's hardenability. Steel production alone accounts for roughly 90% of global manganese demand.

The second-largest application is in aluminium manufacturing. Adding small amounts of manganese significantly improves aluminium's corrosion resistance. Alloys such as aluminium-manganese and aluminium-manganese-magnesium are widely used in products ranging from kitchenware and roofing to



**12,778**  
Direct employees

car radiators, transportation components and - most notably - beverage cans.

Beyond metallurgy, manganese plays an increasingly important role in electric vehicle battery technology. It is a key material in lithium-manganese-nickel-oxide (LMNO) and lithium-ion batteries, where it can boost capacity by up to 20% in the latter. Manganese is also used in several other battery chemistries, underscoring its growing significance in energy storage solutions.

### Industry developments in 2025:

- Production in 2025 is expected to come in slightly above the record set in 2024, with output projected at approximately 20.3 million tonnes compared to 19.8 million tonnes in 2024.

Sales are, however, likely to drop, with estimates pointing to a 2.7% decline to around R48.7 billion in 2025.

- Data from SARS shows that 24 million tonnes of manganese ore were exported in the first 11 months of 2025. Annualised, this suggests total exports of about 26.2 million tonnes for the year - setting a new record and surpassing the previous high of 22.3 million tonnes in 2024. Approximately 95% of manganese export volumes were destined for Asia. China dominated as an export destination, accounting for nearly 68% of all manganese exports followed by India (15.6%), Singapore (3.3%), Malaysia (2.6%) and Japan at 1.6%. Following Asia,

# MANGANESE continued

## Our metals and minerals

the EU accounted for around 7% of manganese exports. Encouragingly, employment data suggests

the manganese industry grew employment levels by around 7% in 2025 to 12,778 employees with earnings

for the industry growing by an estimated 11.7% to R6.3 billion.

### TOP 10 DESTINATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN MANGANESE ORE EXPORTS

	2025 (Jan-Nov)		2024	
	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (million tonnes)	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (million tonnes)
1 China	30,8	16,1	31,2	15,0
2 India	9,0	3,8	10,0	3,9
3 Singapore	2,0	0,8	1,8	0,8
4 Malaysia	1,5	0,6	2,4	0,8
5 Norway	1,2	0,4	1,8	0,6
6 Japan	1,1	0,4	2,1	0,6
7 France	0,7	0,3	0,6	0,2
8 Georgia	0,6	0,2	0,7	0,4
9 Republic of Korea	0,5	0,2	0,8	0,2
10 United Arab Emirates	0,5	0,2	0,3	0,1
<i>World</i>	<i>50,1</i>	<i>24,0</i>	<i>54,4</i>	<i>23,7</i>

Source: SARS Customs Data and Minerals Council SA

Note: The ranking is based on export values for the first 11 months of 2025.

### Industry constraints:

- Transnet's rail network currently has the capacity to transport approximately 16 million tonnes of manganese ore annually from the Northern Cape to the Port of Gqeberha. However, with total annual exports in 2025 likely reaching about 26 million tonnes, around 10 million

tonnes of manganese ore are diverted to road transport. Transnet plans to issue a Request for Information in early 2026 to explore shifting more manganese exports to the Port of Ngqura. This move could increase export capacity to approximately 22 million tonnes - up from the current 16 million tonnes - while reducing

reliance on road transport in favour of rail. The initiative aims to improve efficiency and enhance the industry's overall competitiveness.

- Operational disruptions and inefficiencies at Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) in Gqeberha and Saldanha, which handled approximately 65% and 25% of manganese exports, respectively, in

### Our metals and minerals

2025, continue to undermine export performance. These challenges are compounded by deteriorating infrastructure and outdated, unreliable sampling equipment, along with weather related challenges. There appears to be a focused effort to address these challenges, with operational performance improvements - similar to those noted in the iron ore sector - also evident along the manganese corridor.

Manganese has also been discussed alongside chrome regarding the potential introduction of an export tax. In October 2025, the majority party in the GNU's 10-Point Economic Action Plan stated: "The third intervention is to rebuild our chrome and manganese industries. We will finalise chrome and manganese export tariffs, implement defensive duties on dumped imports, and expand alloys and battery precursor production." However, like chrome, the Minerals Council remains

unconvinced that imposing an export tax on manganese would incentivise beneficiation in any meaningful way. The Minerals Council, together with manganese producers, is currently conducting data-driven research to identify pathways for supporting the manganese industry that can be presented to government, without harming one of South Africa's fastest-growing sectors over the past three decades.

#### Industry outlook:

- Manganese consumption is closely tied to the steel industry, with China remaining the dominant market. South Africa holds the world's largest manganese resource, accounting for roughly 70% of global reserves, though Gabon and Australia also hold significant deposits. Consequently, growth projections for China's economy and steel sector are critical indicators for future manganese demand. According to the IMF's

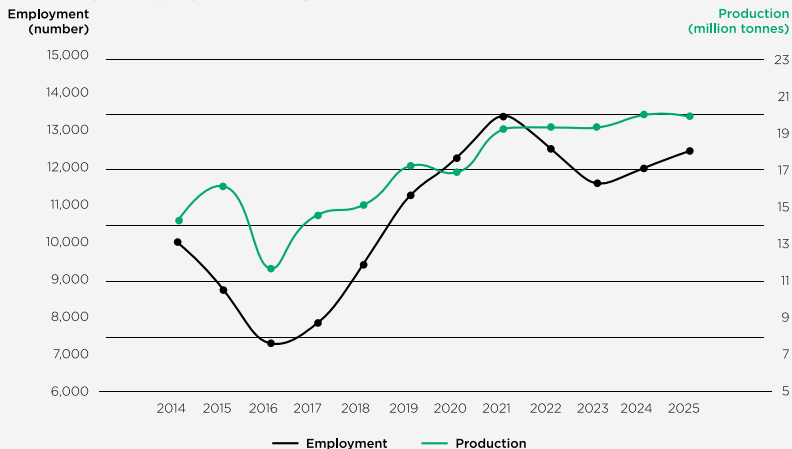
October 2025 forecast, China's economy is expected to grow by 4.2% in 2026, down from 4.8% in 2025. Similarly, the World Steel Association projects Chinese steel demand to decline by 1% - a moderation in the pace of contraction - with the construction sector anticipated to gradually stabilise in 2026. Provided trade tensions do not escalate, manganese demand should remain resilient in the year ahead.

The cost structure of manganese mining operations makes production highly sensitive to price fluctuations, and the availability and cost of road and rail transport. These operations typically run on thin margins, and if prices do not justify the use of road transport - which carries a 40% premium over rail - production is curtailed to maintain profitability.

# MANGANESE continued

## Our metals and minerals

### Manganese industry - employment and production



Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

MANGANESE	2025	% change on prior year (2025 vs. 2024)	2025 % change on 2019 (pre-COVID)
Direct employees	<b>12,778</b>	7.1%	13.9%
Employee earnings (rand billion)	<b>6.3</b>	11.7%	61.8%
Royalties (rand million)	<b>206</b>	-50.0%	-74.3%
Production (million tonnes)	<b>20.3</b>	2.7%	19.5%
Total sales (rand billion)	<b>48.7</b>	-2.7%	8.1%

Source: DMPR, Minerals Council and SARS

## INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

### Our metals and minerals

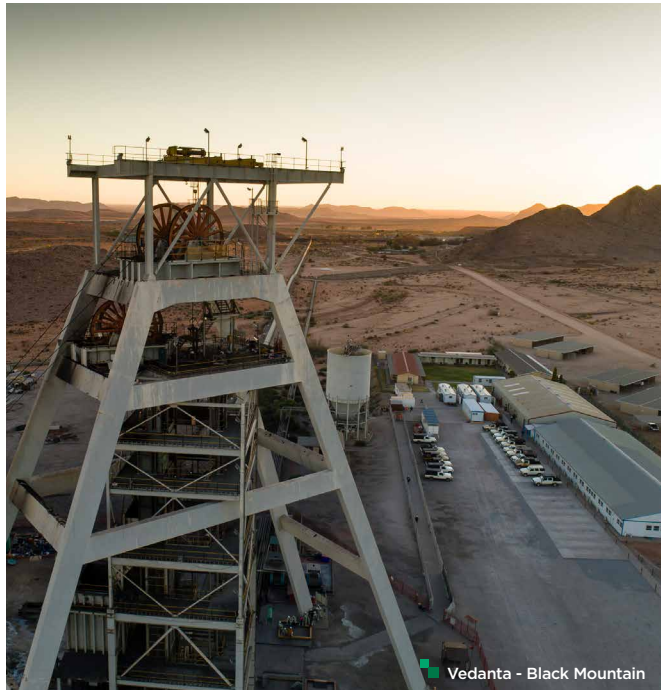
South Africa is richly endowed with an array of minerals, making it a global leader in both the quantity and variety of minerals available.


In 2025, total industrial mineral sales reached R26.7 billion, representing a 2.8% decline compared to 2024. Sales contracted across the board in 2025. Non-metallic minerals - which includes silica, vermiculite and feldspar - accounted for nearly half of these sales, totalling R13.3 billion, which is 1.8% lower than the previous year.

The aggregate and sand segment contributed 29.7% of total sales, while the limestone and lime sector accounted for 16.4%. Sales of special clays recorded a sharp decline of 28%, while brickmaking materials fell by 12.9% and dimension stone sales dropped by 10.2%.



**11,506**  
Direct employees



 Vedanta - Black Mountain

# INDUSTRIAL MINERALS continued

## Our metals and minerals

### Industrial minerals industry – employment and production



Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

INDUSTRIAL MINERALS	2025	% change on prior year (2025 vs. 2024)	2025 % change on 2019 (pre-COVID)
Direct employees	11,506	-2.8%	-8.2%
Employee earnings (rand billion)	2.6	-2.0%	13.1%
Royalties (rand million)	N/A	-	-
Production (million tonnes)	44.3	-9.0%	-18.0%
Total sales (rand billion)	26.7	-2.8%	49.2%

Source: DMPR, Minerals Council and SARS

# INDUSTRIAL MINERALS continued

## Our metals and minerals

Industrial mineral category	Non-metallic other	Limestone and lime	Aggregate and sand	Special clays	Dimension stone	Brickmaking materials	Salt	Building material
<b>Contribution to total sales (%)</b>	<b>49.8%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>COMMODITY</b>	Feldspar	Limestone	Aggregate	Attapulgite	Granite	Clay brickmaking	Salt coarse	Shale for cement
	Feldspar: Lumpy	Limestone: ROM	Aggregate: Base (g1-g)	Bentonite	Granite: Blocks	Shale brickmaking	Salt processed	
	Feldspar: Ground	Limestone: Dolomitic ROM	Aggregate: Sub-base (g4-g)	Fireclay	Granite: Sawn slabs	Building materials other		
	Gypsum	Limestone: Cement	Aggregate: Over 26mm	Flint clay	Granite: Any	Shale for cement		
	Mica	Limestone: Agricultural	Aggregate: Between 13mm to 26mm	Plastic clay	Slate			
	Phosphate concentrate	Limestone: Fluxing	Aggregate: Between 4.75mm to 13mm	Kaolin				
	Pyrophyllite	Limestone: Any	Aggregate: Sand crusher					
	Silica	Lime	Aggregate: Crusher run					
	Silica: Crude	Lime: Quicklime pyrometallurgical	Aggregate: Any					
	Silica: Processed	Lime: Quicklime chemical	Sand natural					
	Sodium sulphate	Lime: Hydrated lime water purification						
	Sulphur	Lime: Hydrated lime chemical						
	Talc	Lime: Hydrated lime any						
Talc: Crude								
Vermiculite								

The industry employed **11,506** people in 2025, who in turn earned R2.6 billion. The industry has not seen meaningful employment gains over the past decade.



# DIAMONDS

## Our metals and minerals

Diamonds are the hardest natural substance on earth. The Mohs scale measures the relative hardness of minerals by their resistance to scratching, from 1 (softest) to 10 (hardest). Diamonds score a perfect 10.

The primary use of diamonds is in jewellery. They are highly valued for their brilliance and durability. Diamonds are commonly used in engagement rings, necklaces, earrings and other forms of high-end jewellery. Their hardness makes them ideal for cutting and drilling in industrial processes.

Diamonds are also used in medical equipment such as surgical blades and drills due to their sharpness and durability. They are used in certain medical imaging devices.

### Industry developments in 2025:

- The diamond industry faced a challenging 2025, with profitability slumping sharply. Sales dropped by nearly 20% as prices



**11,277**  
Direct employees

continued to come under pressure from the growing presence of lab-grown diamonds. This decline occurred despite an estimated 16% increase in production, bringing total output for the year to around 6.8 million carats.

- Employment in the industry also declined sharply, falling by an estimated 21.2% to around 11,277 employees - down from a peak of more than 22,000 in 2005. These figures underscore the immense pressure the industry is currently facing.



## Our metals and minerals

TOP 10 DESTINATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMOND EXPORTS		2025 (Jan-Nov)		2024	
		Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (carats)	Amount (rand billion)	Quantity (carats)
1	United Arab Emirates	19,2	2,715,751	20,6	3,480,419
2	Botswana	3,2	2,016,771	3,8	1,896,721
3	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	1,9	14,348	1,7	21,393
4	Netherlands	1,6	843,291	0,0	715
5	Belgium	1,1	398,157	2,2	714,341
6	United States	0,3	6,119	1,5	10,432
7	India	0,2	75,048	0,3	73,337
8	Israel	0,2	5,555	0,5	8,835
9	Thailand	0,1	5,554	0,1	2,732
10	Unclassified	0,0	675	0,2	126,429
	<i>World</i>	27,8	6,088,451	30,8	6,344,730

Source: SARS Customs Data and Minerals Council SA

Note: The ranking is based on export values for the first 11 months of 2025. Botswana ranks highly because a South African producer exports diamonds.

### Industry constraints:

As a standing issue over the past year, the industry continues to lobby for changes to the Diamond Export Levy Act, the roles of the State Diamond Trader (SDT) and the Diamond Exchange and Export Centre (DEEC), and the Section 74 Exemption in the Diamond Act, among others.

- For example, regarding the Diamond Export Levy Act, the view of the Minerals Council is that it, unfortunately, does not consider the economic

circumstances of the downstream cutting and polishing industry. There have been instances where downstream players would buy diamonds on dealer licences and then export the diamonds without beneficiation.

The Minerals Council's work is ongoing and we continue to engage the National Treasury and SARS on the removal of the following:

- the requirement for a provisional VAT on imported rough diamonds,

which would aid the cash flow position of beneficiaries.

- VAT payment on the local sale of diamond jewellery purchases exceeding R10,000 by tourists. This will mean that tourists will not have to go through the highly administrative process of claiming back VAT by submitting proof of where the tourists obtained the cash - whether it be from an ATM, a bank or a Bureau de Change. The

### Our metals and minerals

process limits the amount of diamond sales the local industry can make to tourists.

- provisional VAT payments on temporary imports to South Africa which applies to shipments higher than R14,000. SARS requires jewellery firms from neighbouring countries to pay this amount upfront. The result is that neighbouring firms are dissuaded from acquiring domestic services for repairs, warranty claims, sending gemstones for grading, and sending sweeps and filings.

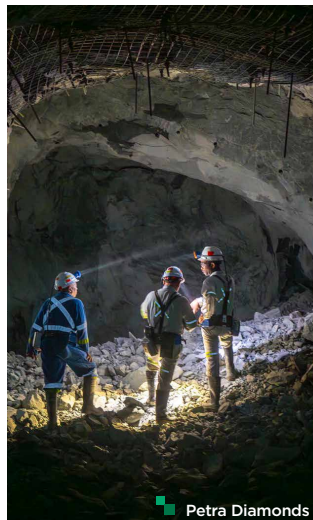
#### Industry outlook:

- The diamond industry is currently experiencing one of its most significant crises in recent years, driven by competition from lab-grown diamonds and a sharp decline in consumer demand. To boost demand, producers across major producing countries are coordinating a marketing campaign aimed

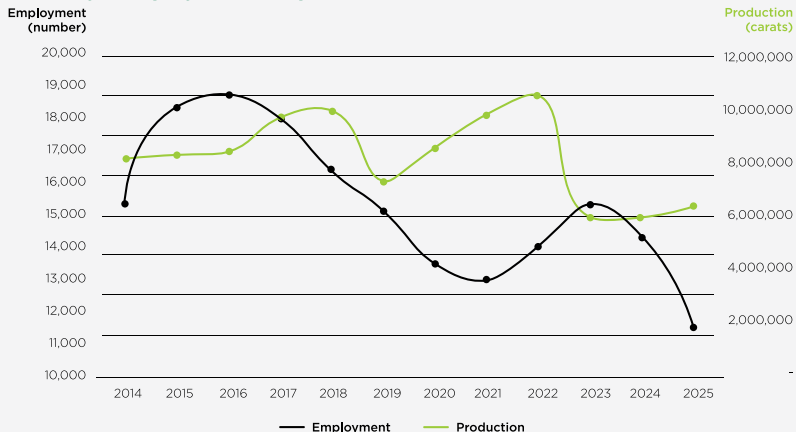
at stimulating consumption, strengthening brand value and clearly differentiating natural diamonds from lab-grown diamonds.

- One of these initiatives is outlined in the Luanda Accord, signed in July 2025, which proposes that all natural diamond producers contribute 1% of their annual revenue to marketing.
- Efforts to secure the support of the South African Government are ongoing. We have also approached provincial premiers in regions where diamond mines are located, requesting concessions that would help reduce the industry's input costs, such as property taxes and utility bills. In addition, we have engaged the DMPR, including a meeting with the Director-General, to accelerate relief measures.
- Since diamond exports to the US are not exempt from tariffs, we have yet to see

the full impact on exports. Needless to say, the effects will be both direct and indirect. Direct impacts refer to the effect of US tariffs on diamond exports to the US, while indirect impacts refer to the consequences for exports to intermediate countries arising from tariffs imposed on those countries' exports to the US.



### Diamonds industry – employment and production



Source: DMPR, Minerals Council

DIAMONDS	2025	% change on prior year (2025 vs. 2024)	2025 % change on 2019 (pre-COVID)
Direct employees	<b>11,277</b>	-21.2%	-25.3%
Employee earnings (rand billion)	<b>5.3</b>	-22.4%	7.4%
Royalties (rand million)	<b>95</b>	122.8%	-73.8%
Production (million carats)	<b>6.8</b>	16.1%	-5.8%
Total sales (rand billion)	<b>10.8</b>	-19.1%	-17.7%

Source: DMPR, Minerals Council and SARS



# #MiningMatters: SA's economic backbone

**The impact of South Africa's mining industry reaches deep into the economy and society, contributing R470 billion to household income, supporting millions of livelihoods through well-paid jobs.**

The mining industry benefited not only mine employees and their families with well-paid jobs, host communities and investors, but it also supported a wide array of local businesses, with hundreds of thousands of jobs and families who are dependent on the industry's sustainable future.

**#MiningMatters 2025**, the Minerals Council South Africa's second iteration of a fact-based, independent study into the broad impact of mining, demonstrates how significant the industry is for the economy and the citizens of our country, benefiting thousands of businesses and their employees.

Local sales of R248 billion worth of minerals supported more jobs and supports the

industrial backbone of the economy.

**#MiningMatters** shows why it is critical for the economy and employment that the regulatory and operating environment for the mining industry are optimised to attract and sustain investments in exploration, new mine development and existing operations.

Doing so will unlock the untapped potential mining has to contribute more to the fiscus, society and investors.

**"We are at a pivotal time in the mining industry and country, given our rich mineral endowment, where we can uplift the performance of the industry and the trajectory of the economy, and shape our future in ways that are unprecedented,"** says Mzila Mthenjane, CEO of the Minerals Council.

In 2025, mining companies paid R200 billion in wages and salaries, accounting for around

5% of all wages paid in South Africa. For 469,765 employees - and their families - this meant supporting and sustaining the lives and livelihoods of nearly 1.9 million people, assuming an average household of 4 people.

Considering just the direct suppliers of goods and services to the mining industry, more than 400,000 people are employed. Combined with mining jobs, this delivers a total direct formal employment impact of about 874,000, supporting at least 3.5 million people.

In 2024, for every R10 million in output generated by the mining industry, the industry supported approximately 8 formal jobs across the economy - this includes direct employment in the mining industry as well as direct suppliers.

Focused transformation initiatives by mining companies mean women now comprise 19% of the full-time mining workforce, showing steady progress in diversity and

## #MiningMatters: SA's economic backbone continued



inclusivity to address the industry's legacy before 1994 when women were prevented by law from working underground.

Mining provides well-paid jobs. The average annual wages within the mining industry in 2024 were R577,597 for high-skilled workers, R328,996 for semi-skilled workers, and between R246,924 for those in low- and unskilled roles.

Nationally, the average wages for the three skill levels were R400,958, R205,851 and R113,083.

The mining sector's contribution of R470 billion

to household income represented 7% of South Africa's total household income, according to Quantec; the economic and financial data consultancy gathering data for **#MiningMatters**.

When the household income of the sector's direct suppliers is incorporated, the total income rose to R680 billion. In 2024, for every R10 million in output by the mining industry, R6.3 million of household income was delivered by mining operations and its direct suppliers.

Mining companies and the entire value chain of businesses servicing mines, including taxes

on wages of all employees, contributed a total of R342 billion to the fiscus.

This contribution was equivalent to:

- building 213,974 houses of approximately 80 square metres
- constructing 17,100 kilometres of tarred road
- paying the annual salaries of 978,166 high school teachers at a salary level of R350,000 per year.

The industry invested R160 billion in machinery, equipment, vehicles and construction, accounting for 15% of South Africa's national gross fixed capital formation.

## #MiningMatters: SA's economic backbone continued

When suppliers are included, capital formation rises to R193 billion. Capital formation is critical to sustaining economic growth.

For every R10 million worth of minerals produced, the mining industry helped generate an additional R1.8 million in new investments across the economy – through its own operations and the businesses that supply it.

The mining industry sold minerals into the local economy worth R248 billion, a record high as domestic purchases have become more diverse. Coal for energy generation has dominated mineral sales, accounting for R135 billion or 54% of the total. Eskom supplies more than 80% of South Africa's electricity from its coal-fired power plants, while Sasol uses coal to make liquid fuel, a key source of diesel and petrol for the local economy.

As South Africa strives to realise more benefit from its mineral wealth, the trend over the past two decades shows

clearly that local businesses are increasingly buying more metals and minerals from local mines despite the constraints of erratic electricity supply since 2008 and a more-than 900% increase in electricity tariffs for large energy consumers.

The Minerals Council supports beneficiation where it makes economic sense. It encourages the Government to create a conducive investment environment through investor-friendly policies to grow the manufacturing sector to add value to South Africa's minerals and metals rather than introduce measures to constrain mineral exports which were worth R813,6 billion in 2025.

Through **#MiningMatters**, it is clear that, when mining performs and grows, South Africa thrives – unlocking economic opportunities, creating and sustaining jobs, building possibilities and driving diversification in commercial activities and transformation across the nation.



## Junior and emerging miners

While junior mining generally refers internationally to prospecting companies involved in the early stages of mining development, in South Africa the term is used more broadly to include exploration as well as small- to mid-tier producers.

The Minerals Council represents various such miners, including member organisations, namely, ASPASA, the Clay Brick Association of South Africa and the South African Diamond Producers Organisation (SADPO).

Emerging miners is also a South African term that refers to smaller new entrants to the industry, typically being black economic empowerment companies.

Based on data available for the first three quarters of 2025, the latest estimates of the size of this sector indicate that the overall revenue and expenditure of the junior and emerging mining sector in South Africa is:

Income	R'million
<b>Turnover</b>	<b>97,177</b>
Interest received	775
Dividends received	383
Royalties received	18
Received rental on land and buildings	641
Received rental on plant and machinery	1,403
Profit on assets	1,201
Other income	2,947
<b>Total income</b>	<b>104,545</b>

Source: Stats SA and Minerals Council

Expenses	R'million
Purchases	43,432
Employment costs	19,904
Interest paid	2,986
Royalties paid	456
Paid rental on land and buildings	3,119
Paid rental on plant and machinery	2,931
Depreciation	5,790
Losses on assets	287
Other expenditure	25,887
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>104,792</b>

Source: Stats SA and Minerals Council

## Junior and emerging miners continued



Based on the performance of the sector for the three quarters of 2025, the sector grew its income by more than 20% compared to the same period in 2024. However, over that same period, expenditure increased by 22.7%, driven primarily by higher purchases of goods and services, and employment costs. Overall, the sector employs approximately 48,000 people in direct jobs, which is about 10% of the total industry workforce. In terms of the commodities mined, the highest concentration is in industrial minerals, followed by diamonds, coal, iron ore and manganese, gold, chrome and PGMs.

In South Africa, the junior mining sector consists mainly of smaller producers, with only a very limited exploration

segment. This segment has become a key focus for the Minerals Council, which aims to attract greater investment into exploration and secure the long-term sustainability of the country's mining industry. The establishment of the R400 million joint IDC/DMPR exploration fund underscores the strong appetite for exploration activity. In October 2025, the second call for applications to the IDC/DMPR-administered exploration fund closed, aiming to allocate the remaining half of the R400 million to successful applicants. The first funding window was completed at the end of the first half of 2025. In addition, Anglo American has announced plans to contribute approximately R600 million to supplement the IDC/DMPR fund. During the G20 summit,

further commitments were made to make financing available for critical minerals mining and potential future exploration projects. The Minerals Council is involved in active lobbying efforts with the DMPR, the Council for Geoscience, the National Treasury and the JSE to garner support from the financial services industry for more funding for exploration in South Africa. Part of this involves a tax incentive to promote exploration in the country. South Africa continues to attract less than 1% of global exploration spend, in stark contrast to countries such as Canada and Australia. It is imperative that we ensure a supportive policy environment which is critical to converting demand for critical minerals into actual exploration projects.

# Critical minerals

The Minerals Council welcomes the publication of the *Critical Minerals and Metals Strategy* in May 2025, and acknowledges the growing global demand for these minerals as essential enablers of the green and digital economies. The Minerals Council supports the strategy's intent and its core principles, including the focus on economic significance, supply risk and strategic relevance in defining South Africa's critical minerals.

While the strategy rightly promotes value addition and localisation, its implementation must be grounded in economic realism. Beneficiation cannot be mandated through punitive measures such as export taxes or quotas. Instead, it should be incentivised through targeted fiscal and infrastructural support, reliable electricity supply and globally competitive pricing. A stable and affordable energy platform is indispensable for industrialisation - without it, downstream ambitions will falter.

The Minerals Council fully endorses the strategy's objectives but stresses that success will depend on practical execution, regulatory certainty and sustained collaboration. We are ready to work with government and other stakeholders to ensure South Africa secures its place in global critical mineral supply chains in a way that drives inclusive growth, job creation and long-term economic resilience.



## CRITICAL MINERALS AND METALS

### High-criticality minerals

- Platinum
- Manganese
- Iron ore
- Coal
- Chrome ore

### Minerals with moderate to high-criticality

- Gold
- Vanadium
- Palladium
- Rhodium
- Rare earth elements

### Minerals with moderate criticality

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Copper   | Phosphate |
| Cobalt   | Fluorspar |
| Lithium  | Zirconium |
| Graphite | Uranium   |
| Nickel   | Aluminium |
| Titanium |           |



# Health

## Health performance milestones 2025 vs 2024

Milestone	2025 Q3	2024
Employees screened for TB	71%	86%
Employees counselled for HIV	61%	82%
Hypertension screening	70%	88%
Diabetes screening	70%	84%
Obesity screening	65%	84%
Cholesterol screening	59%	28%
Mental health screening	58%	62%



### Occupational hygiene milestones

During the 2024 Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) Summit, all stakeholders agreed that the industry should further accelerate the reduction of exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust, respirable coal dust, respirable platinum mine dust and equipment noise as part of the journey towards the elimination of occupational diseases related to these hazards, with the industry principals agreeing to new occupational hygiene milestones. The industry will be monitoring its performance against the new (2024) occupational hygiene milestones

from 1 January 2025, for achievement by December 2034. The data reported below is from the OHIMS.

### Respirable crystalline silica dust milestone

By December 2034, 95% of all exposure measurement results for respirable crystalline silica dust will be below the milestone level of respirable crystalline silica of  $0.03\% \text{mg/m}^3$ .

The data reported within the OHIMS indicates that the industry requires significant effort to progress towards the achievement of the new (2024) respirable crystalline silica dust milestone target of no more

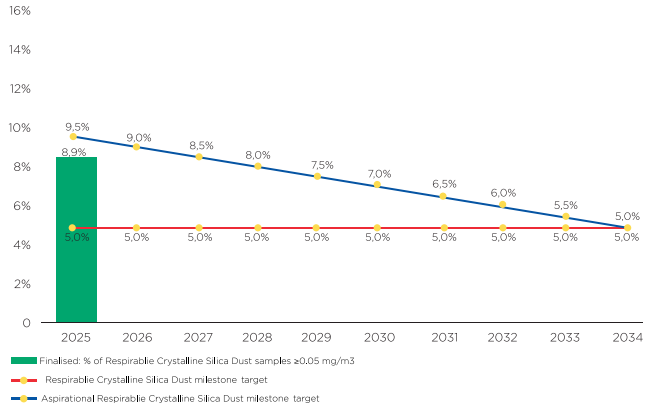
than 5% of personal exposure measurement results below  $0.03\% \text{mg/m}^3$  by the end of 2034. The graph below depicts the industry performance on the respirable crystalline silica dust milestone for the period 2025 to 2034. The gold commodity reported the largest number of personal exposure measurements exceeding the respirable crystalline silica dust milestone.

The graph on the next page depicts the industry performance on the respirable crystalline silica dust milestone for the period 2025 to 2034.



Cementation Africa

### % of respirable crystalline silica dust samples $\geq 0.05\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$



### Coal dust milestone

By December 2034, 95% of all exposure measurement results for respirable coal dust should be below the milestone level of coal dust respirable particulate of  $1.25\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$ .

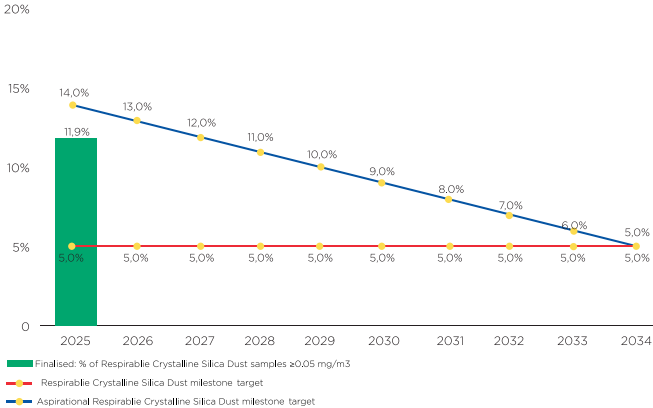
The data reported within the OHIMS indicates that the industry requires significant effort to progress towards the achievement of the new (2024) respirable coal dust milestone for the achievement of the milestone

target of no more than 5% of personal exposure measurement results below  $1.25\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$  by the end of 2034. The underground coal mines reported the largest number of personal exposure measurements exceeding the respirable coal dust milestone.

The graph on the next page depicts the industry performance on the respirable coal dust milestone for the period 2025 to 2034.

# Health continued

## % of respirable coal dust samples $\geq 1.5\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$



## NIHL milestone

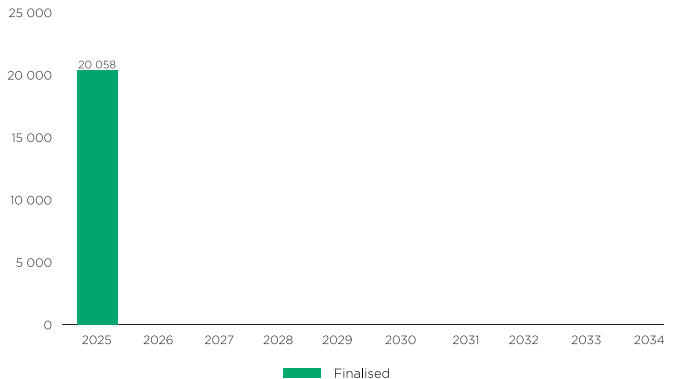
By December 2034, the noise emitted by individual pieces of equipment operated by employees and individual process equipment should not exceed a milestone sound pressure level of 104 dBA. A-weighted decibel (dBA) is an expression of the relative loudness of sounds as perceived by the human ear.

The data reported within the OHIMS indicates that the industry requires significant effort to progress towards the

achievement of the new (2024) equipment noise milestone by the end of 2034.

The graph below depicts the industry performance on the equipment noise milestone for the period 2025 to 2034.

## Total number of individual pieces of equipment $\geq 107\text{ dBA}$





# Safety

## 2025: Another landmark year for safety in mining

2025 was another landmark year for safety in South African mining, underscoring the collective effort of all stakeholders united by the vision of Zero Harm. These achievements reflect the industry's commitment and the targeted interventions championed by the Minerals Council in partnership with its members.

Work across commodities and risk areas demonstrates continued focus, leadership and collaboration in the effort to eliminate fatalities. Central to this progress is Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0.

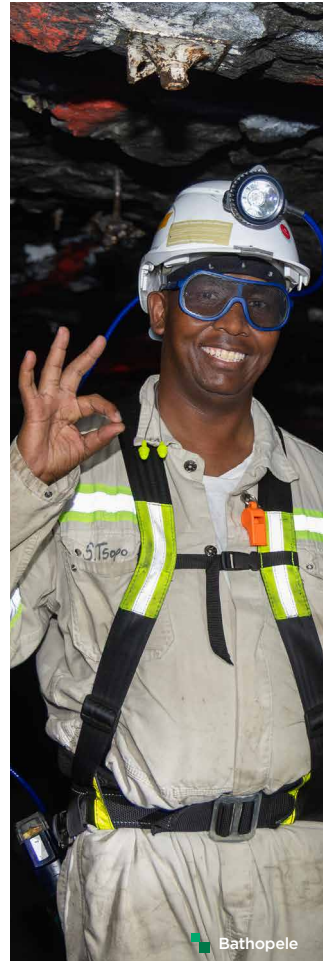
Khumbul'ekhaya - an isiZulu phrase meaning "Remember Home" - is far more than a safety slogan. It is a reminder that every mineworker deserves to return home unharmed. Since its inception in 2019, the initiative has evolved into a CEO-led movement that promotes a culture of care, accountability

and continuous learning across the mining industry.

Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0 builds on hard-earned insights, milestone reviews and candid conversations with industry leaders. It signals a strategic shift: from reactive compliance to proactive leadership; from lagging indicators to predictive intelligence; and from focusing solely on physical safety to embracing holistic wellness.

The Khumbul'ekhaya 2.0 strategy is anchored on five pillars:

- Cross-company visible felt leadership (VFL): CEOs are stepping onto sites, engaging directly with workers and modelling safety-first behaviours. The first VFL visit took place at Glencore Rhovan in July 2025, with a VFL visit to Seriti in November 2025. These visits are not ceremonial; they are about reinforcing leadership presence and accountability.
- Critical control management (CCM): The industry is



## Safety continued

aligning terminology and practices with global standards, including the International Council on Mining and Metals' (ICMM) leading indicator frameworks. A pilot study is underway to refine control-focused safety metrics, especially around fall of ground (FOG) risks.

- Data 4.0: A new frontier in safety intelligence, the strategy prioritises leading indicators, control failures and serious incidents. A dedicated platform is being developed to consolidate

safety data, enabling proactive risk decisions and smarter interventions.

- Human-centric wellness (mental health and fatigue management): Recognising that wellness is foundational to performance, this pillar integrates psychological safety into operational culture. It is a shift from reactive care to proactive support.
- Innovation and collaboration: Through Minerals Council platforms and forums, including the MOSH initiatives, the industry is

accelerating the adoption of effective solutions and sharing lessons learned.

Provisional data from the DMPR confirms a 2.4% y-o-y reduction in overall fatalities, with 41 for the year compared to 42 recorded in total for 2024. We emphasise that the data is provisional and subject to change. The graph details fatalities by commodity, highlighting the impact of ongoing safety efforts.



# Safety continued

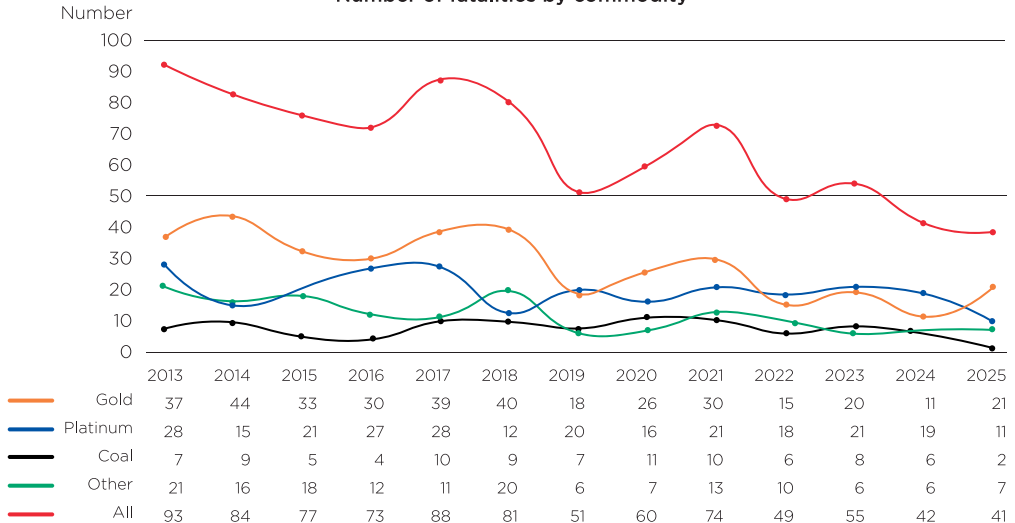
## Number of fatalities by commodity

In 2025, the gold and platinum sectors recorded the highest number of mining fatalities, with 21 and 11 deaths, respectively. This marks a shift from previous patterns, where platinum historically accounted for a

larger share of fatalities, with gold now recording slightly higher numbers. Coal mining reported only 2 fatalities, while other commodities collectively accounted for 7 additional deaths. A standout achievement was recording a fatality-free August 2025. However, fatalities from FOG increased

by 25%, rising from 12 in 2024 to 15 in 2025. Additionally, transportation and mining-related incidents increased by 44.4% over the same period, based on provisional data. A total of 13 transportation-related deaths were recorded for the industry in 2025, compared to 9 in 2024.

Number of fatalities by commodity



Source: DMPR

# Safety continued

Number of fatalities per classification



Source: DMPR

Perhaps the most telling sign of the industry's commitment to Zero Harm is the progress made in reducing injuries. Serious injuries in the mining industry fell

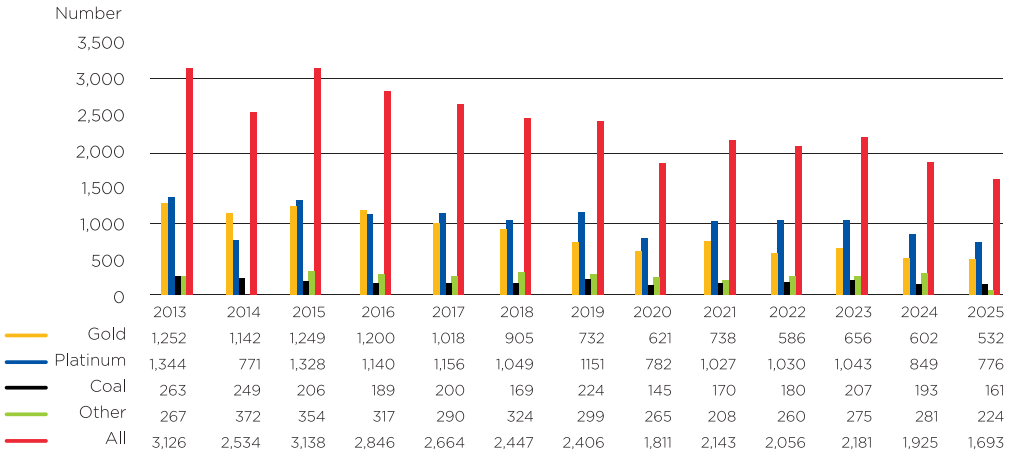
by 12%, dropping to 1,693 in 2025 from 1,925 in 2024. The coal, gold and platinum sectors recorded reductions of 17%, 12% and 9% respectively. Notably, injuries

in other commodities reduced sharply by 20%, reinforcing the principle that a safe workplace is a productive one.



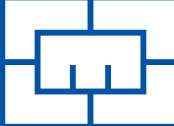


### Injuries per commodity



Source: DMPR





**MINERALS COUNCIL**  
SOUTH AFRICA

**#MiningMatters**



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