The composite mining production index remained for most of the year 2013 below 100, indicating that on an aggregate level it did not reach the output level of January 2008 – the base month. The few exceptions include September and October when it exceeded the production level of the base month and May and November when it was on par. On average, the index stood at 93 during 2013.

The following chart provides a more detailed analysis of the performance of the main minerals mined in Namibia. Uranium showed the strongest increase in output compared to January 2008 exceeding the output level of the base month for almost every month in 2013. The average index for 2013 stood at 123. Zinc followed closely with an average index of 115 and missed the output level of the base month only in June and July 2013. The other minerals remained below output levels seen in January 2008.

Gold experienced a weak first half of 2013 with output averaging just 83 per cent of the reference month. Output increased, however, during the second half with an average of 112 per cent, which was not enough to level out the first half and lift production beyond 100 for the whole year. The output of copper and diamonds fluctuated throughout the year without a clear trend, but remained always below the output of the reference month and closed the year with an average 75 per cent of the production in January 2008. While diamond mining is affected by demand side factors caused by weak global economic growth despite increasing demand in China and India, the copper sector is restricted by the supply side, since the Kombat mine remains closed. However, the future of the mining sector looks promising with the on-going development of the Husab uranium, the Otjikoto gold and the Tschudi copper mines.