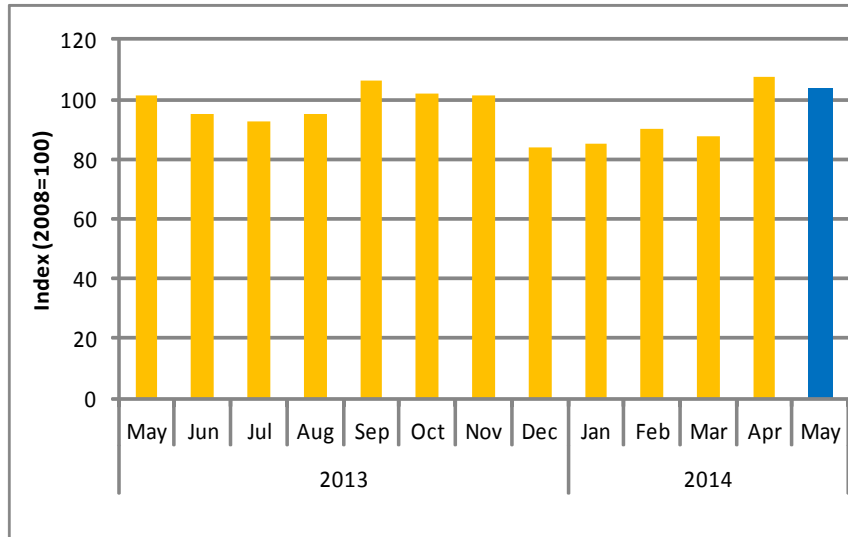




Chart 1: Overall Mining Production Index

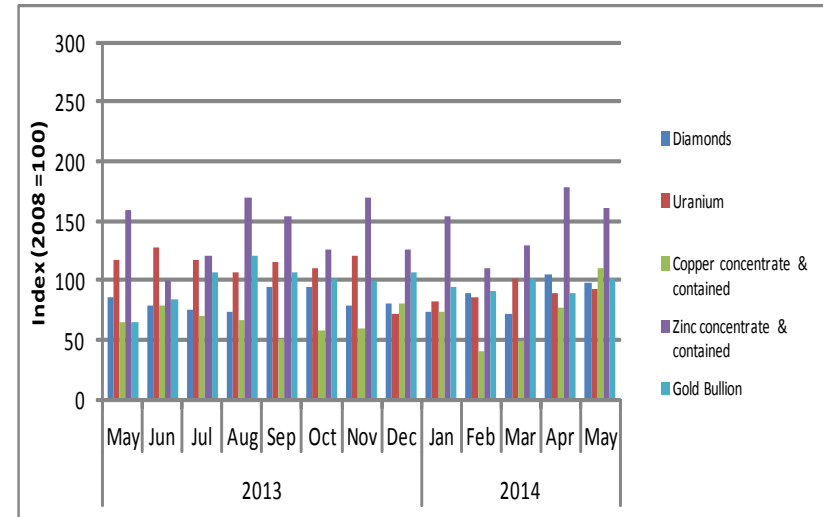


The composite mining production index for May 2014 declined to 103.7 points from 107.5 points in the preceding month, representing a month on month decline of 3.5 percent. However, on an annual basis, the index increased by 2.7 points, or 2.7 percent.

This monthly decline was driven by a slowing in production for diamonds and zinc predominantly, while the production of copper and gold increased, and uranium production remained largely unchanged.

Since its inception, the overall mining production index has been fairly stable, on account of most of the local mines producing at-or-around full production levels over recent years. One exception to this is uranium production, which declined notably in December 2013 on account of a leach tank failure at the Rossing Uranium Mine.

Chart 2: Production Indices of Selected Minerals



As a May 2014, the diamond production index stood at 97.7 points a year on year increase of 12.2 points, and a month on month decline of 6.6 points.

Uranium production increased in May when compared to the preceding month, while still recording a decline when compared the previous year. The uranium production index now stands at 93.0 points in May 2014.

The copper production index rose to 110.6 points in May from 76.3 recorded in April, and 64.2 in May 2013. The gold production index increased 101.1 points in May 2014, while the zinc production index declined to 161.3 points during the month, from a level of 178.5 points recorded for April 2014.

The mining and quarrying sector contributed 9.3 per cent in real value added to GDP in 2013 compared to 10.8 per cent in 2012.