



PRESS RELEASE

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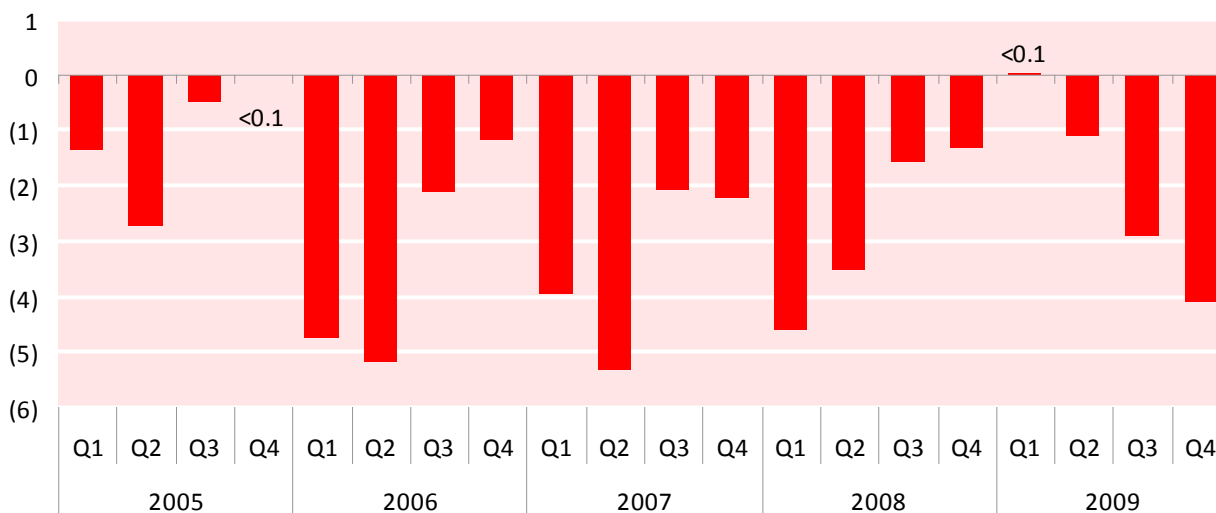
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FORTIS BANK NEDERLAND/VM Group/Haliburton Mineral Services: **Gold Hedging Report**

Q4 09 gold hedging falls 4.0 Moz to 7.9 Moz as Barrick closes out its book; full-year 2009 global reduction 8.0 Moz.

Outstanding global gold hedging (delta-adjusted) fell sharply by 4.0 Moz (126t) to 7.9 Moz (245t) in Q4 2009 as Barrick Gold closed out the remaining 2.9 Moz (90t) of their hedge book, once the industry's largest. The decline brought the full-year 2009 fall to 8.0 Moz (250t) and left global hedging more than 90% lower than its peak of 102.8 Moz (3,198t) in Q3 01.

Quarterly change in gold hedging, delta-adjusted, Moz



Apart from **Barrick**, other major dehedgers in Q4 09 were **AngloGold Ashanti**, who reduced their position, now the industry's largest, by 407,963 oz, and Russian miner **Polymetal**, who closed out a hedge of 315,000 oz acquired in Q4 09 when it purchased the a gold-copper mine in Northern Kazakhstan from **Orsu Metals Corporation**. **Kinross** made a reduction of 109,500 oz through offsetting forward purchases.

Looking ahead to 2010, dehedging is likely to continue but volumes will slow, as the global book is now just 7.9 Moz, smaller than the decline over 2009. Mining companies are set to deliver about 2.5 Moz in 2010, and taking into account likely 'pro-active' dehedging (**Kinross** have already announced cuts of 198,470 oz in Q1 10) and forecast offsetting new hedging, **we expect full-year dehedging in 2010 to be between 1.5 Moz and 3.0 Moz.**

The **Gold Hedging Report** by VM Group/Haliburton Mineral Services, in co-operation with Fortis Bank Nederland, covers the hedging activities of 118 gold mining companies and is published on an open-access basis; it is available directly from VM Group at www.virtualmetals.co.uk. If you have not received a copy of this report, or should you require further details or commentary, please contact:

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