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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Electricity generated and available for distribution (Preliminary)

July 2020

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Electricity generated (produced) in South Africa: results for July 2020

Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated

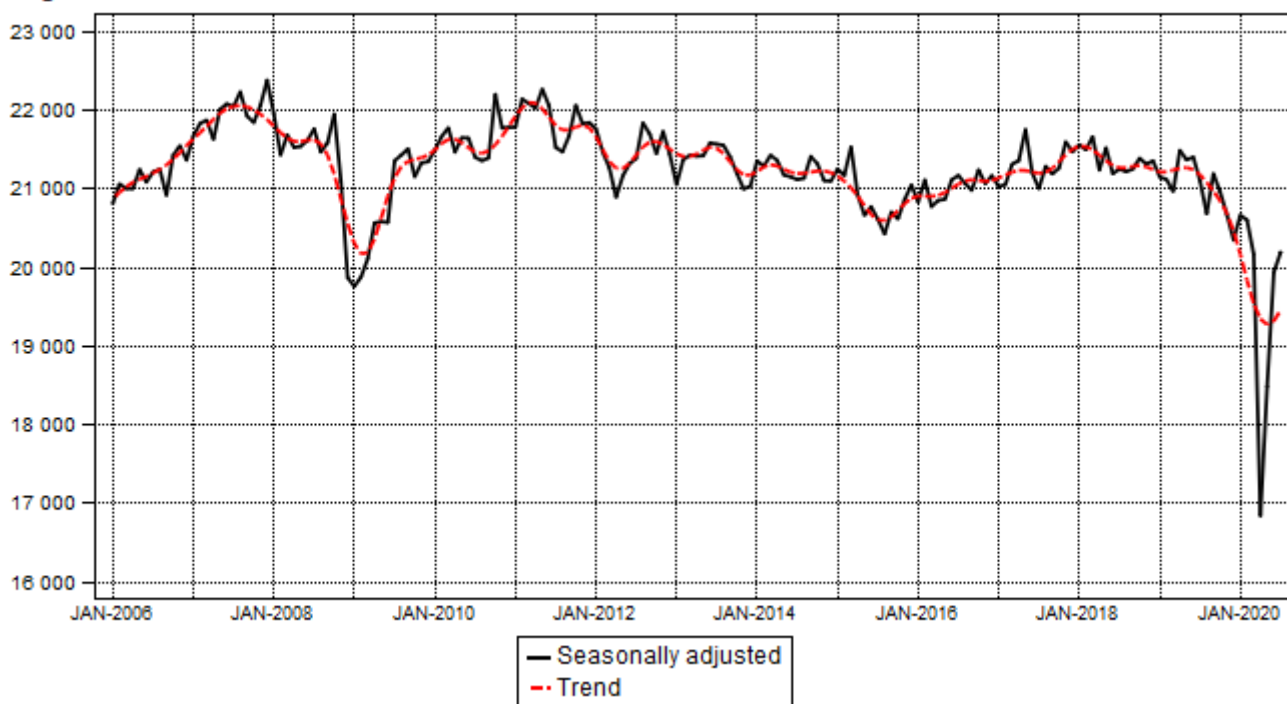
	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,0	-4,0	-22,8	-13,2	-5,8	-4,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,3	-2,1	-16,5	9,7	7,9	1,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,9	-0,9	-6,6	-10,0	-10,1	1,7

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 4,5% year-on-year in July 2020. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation increased by 1,3% in July 2020 compared with June 2020. This followed month-on-month changes of 7,9% in June 2020 and 9,7% in May 2020. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation increased by 1,7% in the three months ended July 2020 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Electricity generated in South Africa

Gigawatt-hours



Electricity distributed (consumed) in South Africa: results for July 2020

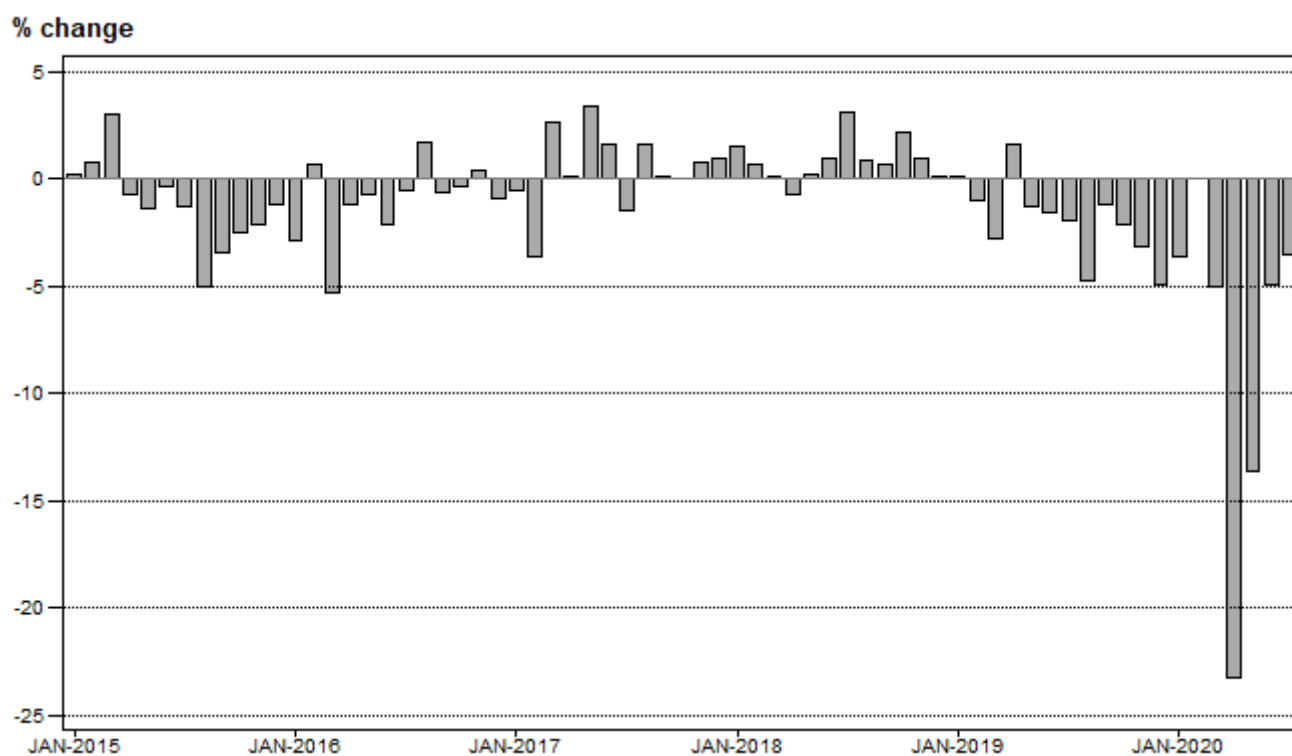
Table B – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed

	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,0	-5,0	-23,3	-13,6	-4,9	-3,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,1	-2,4	-16,4	10,2	8,3	2,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-2,1	-1,5	-7,4	-10,5	-10,0	2,7

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 3,5% year-on-year in July 2020. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution increased by 2,0% month-on-month in July 2020, following month-on-month changes of 8,3% in June 2020 and 10,2% in May 2020. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution increased by 2,7% in the three months ended July 2020 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 2 – Electricity distributed in South Africa: year-on-year percentage change



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Index of the volume of electricity generated (Base: 2015=100)

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ¹
Jan	101,3	101,2	99,2	100,1	102,4	100,4	97,9
Feb	93,6	93,0	95,9	92,2	93,9	92,1	93,0
Mar	102,5	103,6	99,6	102,2	103,4	100,4	96,4
Apr	99,6	96,5	97,4	98,1	97,6	99,4	76,7
May	103,8	101,4	102,7	107,4	106,5	105,9	91,9
Jun	103,5	102,7	103,2	104,8	105,1	105,2	99,1
Jul	107,9	105,4	108,4	106,5	108,8	108,1	103,2
Aug	105,9	101,2	105,1	106,0	105,5	103,0	
Sep	102,1	98,6	99,8	100,8	100,0	99,6	
Oct	104,1	101,0	103,2	104,6	105,4	103,4	
Nov	99,2	98,1	100,3	101,9	101,8	99,0	
Dec	97,4	97,3	98,2	99,6	98,0	94,1	
Total	101,7	100,0	101,1	102,0	102,4	100,9	

¹ Latest month is preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in the volume of electricity generated

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 year-to-date
Jan	-0,1	-2,0	0,9	2,3	-2,0	-2,5	-2,5
Feb	-0,6	3,1	-3,9	1,8	-1,9	1,0	-0,8
Mar	1,1	-3,9	2,6	1,2	-2,9	-4,0	-1,9
Apr	-3,1	0,9	0,7	-0,5	1,8	-22,8	-7,2
May	-2,3	1,3	4,6	-0,8	-0,6	-13,2	-8,5
Jun	-0,8	0,5	1,6	0,3	0,1	-5,8	-8,0
Jul	-2,3	2,8	-1,8	2,2	-0,6	-4,5	-7,5
Aug	-4,4	3,9	0,9	-0,5	-2,4		
Sep	-3,4	1,2	1,0	-0,8	-0,4		
Oct	-3,0	2,2	1,4	0,8	-1,9		
Nov	-1,1	2,2	1,6	-0,1	-2,8		
Dec	-0,1	0,9	1,4	-1,6	-4,0		
Total	-1,7	1,1	0,9	0,4	-1,5		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of electricity generated

Month	Base: 2015=100				Month-on-month % change			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan	100,7	103,2	101,3	99,0	-0,7	0,4	-1,0	1,5
Feb	100,8	102,9	101,1	98,7	0,1	-0,3	-0,2	-0,3
Mar	102,1	103,7	100,4	96,6	1,3	0,8	-0,7	-2,1
Apr	102,3	101,7	102,9	80,7	0,2	-1,9	2,5	-16,5
May	104,2	103,0	102,3	88,5	1,9	1,3	-0,6	9,7
Jun	101,5	101,5	102,5	95,5	-2,6	-1,5	0,2	7,9
Jul	100,6	101,8	101,1	96,7	-0,9	0,3	-1,4	1,3
Aug	101,9	101,6	99,1		1,3	-0,2	-2,0	
Sep	101,5	101,8	101,5		-0,4	0,2	2,4	
Oct	101,8	102,4	100,4		0,3	0,6	-1,1	
Nov	103,4	102,1	99,0		1,6	-0,3	-1,4	
Dec	102,8	102,3	97,5		-0,6	0,2	-1,5	

Table 4 – Volume of electricity distributed in South Africa (gigawatt-hours)

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ¹
Jan	19 491	18 924	18 820	19 106	19 132	18 444
Feb	18 060	18 190	17 539	17 667	17 493	17 491
Mar	19 998	18 935	19 441	19 470	18 930	17 976
Apr	18 769	18 535	18 550	18 421	18 711	14 357
May	19 636	19 502	20 161	20 207	19 943	17 230
Jun	19 824	19 405	19 720	19 926	19 609	18 649
Jul	20 391	20 297	19 997	20 626	20 224	19 520
Aug	19 236	19 570	19 880	20 053	19 105	
Sep	18 788	18 679	18 707	18 839	18 605	
Oct	19 415	19 349	19 352	19 785	19 367	
Nov	18 720	18 790	18 940	19 123	18 539	
Dec	18 529	18 370	18 562	18 582	17 678	
Total	230 857	228 546	229 669	231 805	227 336	

¹ Latest month is preliminary.**Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in electricity distributed in South Africa**

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 year-to-date
Jan	-2,9	-0,5	1,5	0,1	-3,6	-3,6
Feb	0,7	-3,6	0,7	-1,0	0,0	-1,9
Mar	-5,3	2,7	0,1	-2,8	-5,0	-3,0
Apr	-1,2	0,1	-0,7	1,6	-23,3	-8,1
May	-0,7	3,4	0,2	-1,3	-13,6	-9,2
Jun	-2,1	1,6	1,0	-1,6	-4,9	-8,5
Jul	-0,5	-1,5	3,1	-1,9	-3,5	-7,7
Aug	1,7	1,6	0,9	-4,7		
Sep	-0,6	0,1	0,7	-1,2		
Oct	-0,3	0,0	2,2	-2,1		
Nov	0,4	0,8	1,0	-3,1		
Dec	-0,9	1,0	0,1	-4,9		
Total	-1,0	0,5	0,9	-1,9		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted volume of electricity distributed in South Africa

Month	Gigawatt-hours				Month-on-month % change			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan	18 941	19 264	19 302	18 630	-0,4	0,2	-0,8	1,5
Feb	19 068	19 270	19 090	18 418	0,7	0,0	-1,1	-1,1
Mar	19 404	19 493	18 911	17 979	1,8	1,2	-0,9	-2,4
Apr	19 291	19 143	19 332	15 034	-0,6	-1,8	2,2	-16,4
May	19 538	19 531	19 234	16 566	1,3	2,0	-0,5	10,2
Jun	19 046	19 212	19 097	17 948	-2,5	-1,6	-0,7	8,3
Jul	18 912	19 309	18 923	18 305	-0,7	0,5	-0,9	2,0
Aug	19 174	19 381	18 416		1,4	0,4	-2,7	
Sep	18 918	19 268	19 050		-1,3	-0,6	3,4	
Oct	18 989	19 384	18 939		0,4	0,6	-0,6	
Nov	19 258	19 198	18 591		1,4	-1,0	-1,8	
Dec	19 235	19 455	18 350		-0,1	1,3	-1,3	

Table 7 – Volume of electricity by category (gigawatt-hours)

	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20 ¹	Jul-20 year-on-year % change
Total - all producers						
Generated	20 110	16 014	19 177	20 682	21 542	-4,5
Inflow into South Africa	920	898	794	786	832	0,8
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 660	1 506	1 680	1 746	1 788	-3,0
Outflow from South Africa	1 393	1 050	1 061	1 073	1 065	-18,7
Distributed in South Africa	17 976	14 357	17 230	18 649	19 520	-3,5
Eskom						
Generated	18 299	14 217	17 503	18 651	19 421	-4,7
Inflow into South Africa	920	898	794	786	832	0,8
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 602	1 448	1 627	1 676	1 686	-3,0
Outflow from South Africa	1 393	1 050	1 061	1 073	1 065	-18,7
Distributed in South Africa	16 224	12 617	15 608	16 689	17 502	-3,6

¹ Preliminary.**Table 8 – Year-to-date volume of electricity by category: year-on-year percentage change and difference**

	Jan – Jul 2019 (GWh)	Jan – Jul 2020 (GWh)	% change between Jan – Jul 2019 and Jan – Jul 2020	Difference between Jan – Jul 2019 and Jan – Jul 2020 (GWh)
Total - all producers				
Generated	148 424	137 373	-7,4	-11 051
Inflow into South Africa	5 465	6 025	10,2	560
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	11 556	11 541	-0,1	-15
Outflow from South Africa	8 290	8 189	-1,2	-101
Distributed in South Africa	134 042	123 667	-7,7	-10 375
Eskom				
Generated	134 446	124 199	-7,6	-10 247
Inflow into South Africa	5 465	6 025	10,2	560
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	11 016	11 089	0,7	73
Outflow from South Africa	8 290	8 189	-1,2	-101
Distributed in South Africa	120 605	110 947	-8,0	-9 658

Table 9 – Volume of electricity delivered to provinces (gigawatt-hours)

Province	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20 ¹	Jul-20 year-on-year % change
Western Cape	1 834	1 464	1 621	1 661	1 732	-13,3
Eastern Cape	704	587	691	721	763	-5,5
Northern Cape	474	378	466	504	521	-4,8
Free State	912	748	902	969	1 028	-1,7
KwaZulu-Natal	3 308	2 854	3 198	3 378	3 539	-0,3
North West	1 529	824	1 221	1 331	1 451	-10,1
Gauteng	4 602	3 857	4 782	5 486	5 756	-1,9
Mpumalanga	2 695	2 221	2 460	2 620	2 693	-1,2
Limpopo	1 661	1 189	1 566	1 618	1 678	0,0
Total	17 719	14 122	16 907	18 288	19 161	-3,4

¹ Preliminary.

Survey information

Introduction	1	<p>Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering electricity undertakings and establishments (branches) in the electricity industry. This statistical release contains monthly information regarding the volume of electricity units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generated and distributed in South Africa; • flowing into and out from South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders; and • delivered to provinces. <p>Both unadjusted and seasonally adjusted figures are published.</p>
	2	In accordance with international practice, the indices are usually re-based every five years to a new base year. The current base period of the index is 2015.
	3	Some information for the current month may have been estimated due to late submission by respondents. These estimates will be revised in the next statistical release(s) as soon as actual information is available.
Purpose of the survey	4	The results of the monthly electricity survey are used to compile estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy.
Scope of the survey	5	This survey covers electricity undertakings and establishments conducting activities concerned with the generation and/or distribution of electricity (excluding the distribution of purchased electric energy). It includes electrical power installations, which, as subsidiary divisions of undertakings, produce electricity for regular use by these undertakings.
Classification	6	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the electricity undertaking or establishment.
Collection rate	7	The collection rate for the survey on electricity generated and available for distribution for July 2020 was 96%. The improved collection rate for June 2020 was 92%.
Statistical unit	8	The statistical unit for the collection of information is the electricity undertaking or establishment. The electricity undertaking or establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity (see point 5).
Revised figures	9	<p>Normally revised figures are due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • late submission of data to Stats SA; and • revisions or corrections by respondents to previous reported data. <p>Data are edited at enterprise level.</p>
Rounding-off of figures	10	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Historical data	11	Historical electricity data are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following link (Time series data) to access the data electronically.
Past publications	12	Past electricity releases are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following link (Past publications) to access the releases electronically.

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design	1	All statistical units are stratified by type of economic activity according to the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (SIC) and measure of size, where measure of size is the volume of electricity generated by the electricity undertaking or establishment. All large undertakings or establishments (size group one) are completely enumerated. A sample is drawn from medium and small size undertakings and establishments by systematically selecting undertakings or establishments within each size category. An electricity undertaking or establishment with a total generating capacity of less than 500 kilowatts is excluded from the sample.
	2	The survey is conducted by electronic filing, email, fax and telephone. Information is collected from a sample of 24 electricity undertakings or establishments. As from September 2013, Eskom supplied additional data for independent power producers (IPPs) that were not in the original sample of 24 establishments.
Monthly index of electricity generated	3	The calculation of the monthly index of electricity generated is based on the volume of electricity units produced.
Benchmarking	4	The index of the volume of electricity generated should provide an accurate reflection of the trend of activities of the relevant industry. The level of activities, as measured by the monthly electricity survey, is based on information received from a sample of electricity undertakings and establishments. These levels are weighted according to the original sample and designed to represent the population of electricity undertakings and establishments.
		The results of the 1995 Census of electricity, gas and steam served as a benchmark to verify or adjust the level of the monthly index of the volume of electricity generated collected through the monthly survey. The level adjustments were done on the volume index for July of the relevant census year (the 1995 census year covered the period 1 January to 31 December 1995 and therefore, the benchmarking was done using the index of July 1995 as reference point).
Seasonal adjustment	5	<p>Seasonally adjusted estimates of all items are generated each month, using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by US Bureau of the Census Economic Research and Analyses Division, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognized. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. This means the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X12-ARIMA procedure for electricity generated and available for distribution is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:</p> <p>Click to download Electricity seasonal adjustment September 2017</p> <p>Note: Owing to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, a transitory change adjustment was applied to April 2020. Transitory (temporary) change describes a temporary effect on the level of series after a certain point in time. The methodology will be reviewed as more data points are added to the time series.</p>
Trend cycle	6	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.
Month-on-month percentage change	7	The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

Year-on-year percentage change	8	The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
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Glossary

Electricity undertaking	An undertaking concerned with the generation and distribution of electricity, including electrical power installations, which, as subsidiary divisions of undertakings, produce electricity for regular use by these undertakings.	
Index of the volume of electricity generated	A statistical measure of the change in the volume of electricity generated in a given period and the volume of electricity generated in the base period. The base period is 2015. The production in the base period is set at 100.	
Industry	An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the System of National Accounts (SNA) in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.	
Inflow into SA	Electricity flowing into South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.	
Outflow from SA	Electricity flowing from South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.	
Unit of electricity	One gigawatt-hour of electricity is equal to one million kilowatt-hours. A kilowatt-hour is the basic unit of electrical energy equal to one kilowatt of power supplied to or taken from an electric circuit steadily for one hour. One kilowatt-hour equals one thousand watt-hours.	
Symbols and abbreviations	GDP	Gross domestic product
	GWh	Gigawatt-hour
	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
	SA	South Africa
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	*	Revised figures

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