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STATISTICAL RELEASE P4141

Electricity generated and available for distribution (Preliminary)

January 2024

This release provides an analysis of revisions. If you have any questions or comments, please send these to Nicolai Claassen, nicolaic@statssa.gov.za.

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Electricity generated (produced) in South Africa: results for January 2024

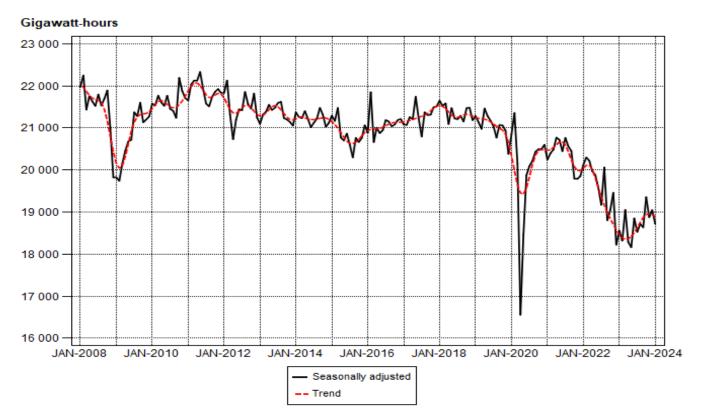
Table A - Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,4	-1,0	1,6	-3,0	4,4	0,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	-0,4	4,0	-2,5	0,9	-1,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	1,1	1,0	2,1	1,4	2,6	-0,1

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

Electricity generation (production) increased by 0,8% year-on-year in January 2024. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation decreased by 1,7% in January 2024 compared with December 2023. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,9% in December 2023 and -2,5% in November 2023. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation decreased by 0,1% in the three months ended January 2024 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 - Electricity generated in South Africa



Electricity distributed (consumed) in South Africa: results for January 2024

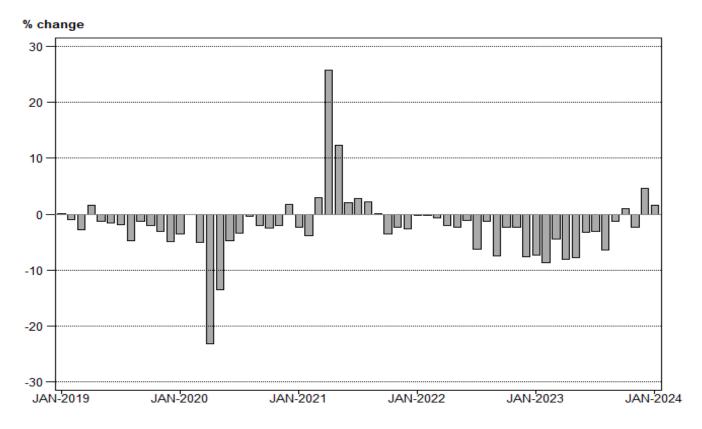
Table B - Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed

	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,4	-1,2	1,0	-2,3	4,6	1,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,1	-1,5	4,0	-2,1	1,8	-1,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	1,2	0,7	1,3	0,5	2,5	0,8

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) increased by 1,6% year-on-year in January 2024. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution decreased by 1,1% month-on-month in January 2024, following month-on-month changes of 1,8% in December 2023 and -2,1% in November 2023. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution increased by 0,8% in the three months ended January 2024 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: 2019=100)

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 ¹
Jan	101,5	99,5	97,1	93,9	93,0	85,7	86,4
Feb	93,1	91,3	92,2	88,2	87,9	79,4	
Mar	102,5	99,5	95,5	97,2	96,2	90,8	
Apr	96,8	98,5	76,1	95,5	91,9	84,1	
May	105,5	104,9	91,1	102,2	97,9	89,4	
Jun	104,2	104,3	98,3	101,4	97,3	93,7	
Jul	107,9	107,1	102,3	105,7	97,6	94,3	
Aug	104,6	102,1	99,7	101,7	99,5	93,1	
Sep	99,2	98,7	95,7	95,7	87,9	87,0	
Oct	104,5	102,5	99,7	96,2	92,5	94,0	
Nov	100,9	98,2	95,7	92,2	90,5	87,8	
Dec	97,1	93,3	94,3	90,8	83,3	87,0	
Total	101,5	100,0	94,8	96,7	93,0	88,9	

¹ Latest month is preliminary.

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 year-to-date
Jan	-2,0	-2,4	-3,3	-1,0	-7,8	0,8	0,8
Feb	-1,9	1,0	-4,3	-0,3	-9,7		
Mar	-2,9	-4,0	1,8	-1,0	-5,6		
Apr	1,8	-22,7	25,5	-3,8	-8,5		
May	-0,6	-13,2	12,2	-4,2	-8,7		
Jun	0,1	-5,8	3,2	-4,0	-3,7		
Jul	-0,7	-4,5	3,3	-7,7	-3,4		
Aug	-2,4	-2,4	2,0	-2,2	-6,4		
Sep	-0,5	-3,0	0,0	-8,2	-1,0		
Oct	-1,9	-2,7	-3,5	-3,8	1,6		
Nov	-2,7	-2,5	-3,7	-1,8	-3,0		
Dec	-3,9	1,1	-3,7	-8,3	4,4		
Total	-1,5	-5,2	2,0	-3,8	-4,4		

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

NA 41-		Base: 2	019=100		Month-on-month % change				
Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Jan	96,2	95,6	88,2	89,0	-1,7	1,4	1,8	-1,7	
Feb	96,9	96,5	87,0		0,7	0,9	-1,4		
Mar	97,3	96,1	90,5		0,4	-0,4	4,0		
Apr	98,7	94,9	86,9		1,4	-1,2	-4,0		
May	98,4	94,5	86,3		-0,3	-0,4	-0,7		
Jun	97,1	93,1	89,6		-1,3	-1,5	3,8		
Jul	98,7	91,1	88,0		1,6	-2,1	-1,8		
Aug	97,7	95,3	88,9		-1,0	4,6	1,0		
Sep	97,2	89,3	88,5		-0,5	-6,3	-0,4		
Oct	94,0	90,5	92,0		-3,3	1,3	4,0		
Nov	94,0	92,5	89,7		0,0	2,2	-2,5		
Dec	94,3	86,6	90,5		0,3	-6,4	0,9		

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 ¹
Jan	19 132	18 444	18 002	17 974	16 664	16 923
Feb	17 493	17 491	16 825	16 815	15 362	
Mar	18 930	17 976	18 522	18 408	17 592	
Apr	18 711	14 379	18 078	17 709	16 271	
May	19 943	17 254	19 371	18 897	17 433	
Jun	19 609	18 664	19 049	18 838	18 232	
Jul	20 224	19 533	20 082	18 814	18 239	
Aug	19 105	19 038	19 459	19 220	17 981	
Sep	18 605	18 216	18 230	16 857	16 648	
Oct	19 367	18 883	18 203	17 784	17 970	
Nov	18 539	18 153	17 713	17 281	16 886	
Dec	17 678	17 979	17 496	16 173	16 923	
Total	227 336	216 010	221 030	214 770	206 201	

¹ Latest month is preliminary.

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in electricity distributed in South Africa

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 year-to-date
Jan	-3,6	-2,4	-0,2	-7,3	1,6	1,6
Feb	0,0	-3,8	-0,1	-8,6		
Mar	-5,0	3,0	-0,6	-4,4		
Apr	-23,2	25,7	-2,0	-8,1		
May	-13,5	12,3	-2,4	-7,7		
Jun	-4,8	2,1	-1,1	-3,2		
Jul	-3,4	2,8	-6,3	-3,1		
Aug	-0,4	2,2	-1,2	-6,4		
Sep	-2,1	0,1	-7,5	-1,2		
Oct	-2,5	-3,6	-2,3	1,0		
Nov	-2,1	-2,4	-2,4	-2,3		
Dec	1,7	-2,7	-7,6	4,6		
Total	-5,0	2,3	-2,8	-4,0		

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

M 41-		Gigawa	tt-hours			Month-on-mo	onth % change	
Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	18 423	18 459	17 137	17 412	-1,4	1,5	2,0	-1,1
Feb	18 395	18 364	16 706		-0,2	-0,5	-2,5	
Mar	18 510	18 366	17 519		0,6	0,0	4,9	
Apr	18 635	18 229	16 746		0,7	-0,7	-4,4	
May	18 601	18 192	16 802		-0,2	-0,2	0,3	
Jun	18 193	17 979	17 390		-2,2	-1,2	3,5	
Jul	18 731	17 574	17 063		3,0	-2,3	-1,9	
Aug	18 752	18 470	17 250		0,1	5,1	1,1	
Sep	18 559	17 183	16 998		-1,0	-7,0	-1,5	
Oct	17 889	17 501	17 675		-3,6	1,9	4,0	
Nov	18 105	17 702	17 300		1,2	1,1	-2,1	
Dec	18 178	16 805	17 604		0,4	-5,1	1,8	

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

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24 ¹	Jan-24 year-on- year % change
Total - all producers						
Generated	18 308	19 792	18 474	18 307	18 184	0,9
Inflow into South Africa	808	786	878	965	981	-2,2
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 495	1 575	1 421	1 390	1 390	1,5
Outflow from South Africa	973	1 033	1 045	959	852	-14,7
Distributed in South Africa	16 648	17 970	16 886	16 923	16 923	1,6
Eskom						
Generated	15 804	17 250	16 060	15 792	15 603	1,1
Inflow into South Africa	808	786	878	965	981	-2,2
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 400	1 481	1 330	1 311	1 290	1,3
Outflow from South Africa	973	1 033	1 045	959	852	-14,7
Distributed in South Africa	14 239	15 522	14 563	14 487	14 442	2,0

¹ Preliminary.

Table 8 – Volume of electricity delivered to provinces (gigawatt-hours)

Province	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24 ¹	Jan-24 year-on-year % change
Western Cape	1 500	1 566	1 486	1 541	1 619	10,1
Eastern Cape	707	760	676	660	674	6,3
Northern Cape	473	505	576	598	604	17,5
Free State	783	863	829	834	834	-0,6
KwaZulu-Natal	3 103	3 234	3 080	3 140	3 091	0,7
North West	1 674	1 832	1 750	1 681	1 698	-6,6
Gauteng	4 122	4 459	4 129	3 900	4 027	3,5
Mpumalanga	2 341	2 630	2 512	2 568	2 516	-0,8
Limpopo	1 686	1 848	1 684	1 766	1 719	5,2
Total	16 390	17 698	16 722	16 688	16 783	2,3

¹ Preliminary.

Analysis of revisions

Introduction

Preliminary monthly indices for electricity generated and available for distribution are published approximately five weeks after the reference month, e.g. preliminary electricity available for distribution for January are published around the first week of March. The preliminary values are revised the following month, using additional information received from respondents. This and other reasons for revising electricity generated and available for distribution values from time to time are shown in the following revisions schedule.

Revisions schedule for electricity generated and available for distribution

Reason for revision	Schedule
Additional information from respondents	Monthly (revision of the previous months)
New base year	Periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals

Note that seasonally adjusted values are revised monthly.

Analysis

Revisions may be analysed in terms of several dimensions, namely production indices and/or volumes, growth rates (e.g. month-on-month percentage changes, year-on-year percentage changes); seasonally adjusted and/or unadjusted data; totals and/or components; preliminary estimate compared with first revision and/or latest available revision; and various combinations of these options.

This analysis is confined to the following:

- Total electricity available for distribution in gigawatt-hours, year-on-year growth rate, unadjusted.
- Preliminary growth rates are compared with the latest available revised growth rates, where the preliminary growth rate refers to the first year-on-year growth rate published for the month in question.
- Time period: January 2012 to December 2023.

Figure 3 shows the preliminary and revised growth rates (line chart, left vertical axis) and the difference between them (bar chart, right vertical axis, where difference = revised - preliminary).

Table 9 provides key results relating to revisions.

Figure 3 - Electricity available for distribution year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised

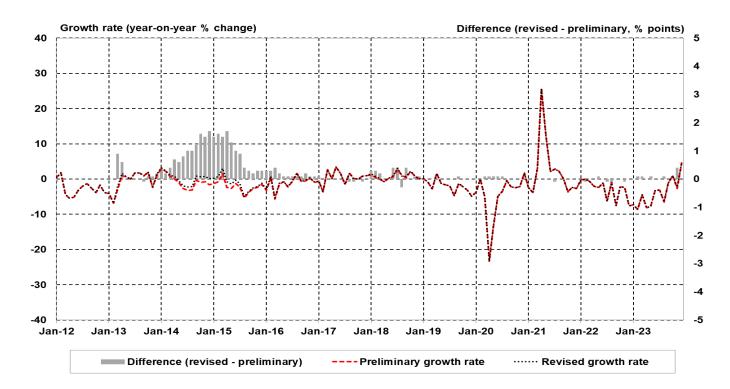


Table 9 - Electricity available for distribution: preliminary and revised

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Average year-on-year growth rate over the whole period	Preliminary: -1,39% Revised: -1,19%	The average of revised growth rates is higher than the average of preliminary growth rates
Mean revision	0,20 of a percentage point	This is the average of the revisions
Mean absolute revision	0,22 of a percentage point	Average of the revisions, but based on the absolute value of each revision (positives and negatives do not cancel each other)
Largest upward revision	1,7 percentage points	Preliminary -1,6% was revised up to 0,1% (December 2014) Preliminary -2,4% was revised up to -0,7% (April 2015)
Largest downward revision	-0,3 of a percentage point	Preliminary 1,2% was revised down to 0,9% (August 2018)
Range for all revisions	-0,3 to 1,7 percentage points	
Range within which 90% of the revisions lie	-0,1 to 1,5 percentage points	This may be regarded as the normal range for revisions, with revisions outside this range being outliers; however, for the more recent period 2017–2023, 90% of the revisions lay between -0,1 and 0,4 of a percentage point
Number of upward revisions	62 (or 43,1% of the total observations)	
Number of downward revisions	11 (or 7,6% of the total observations)	

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Number of zero revisions	71 (or 49,3% of the total observations)	
Is the mean revision (0,20) significantly different from zero?	Yes	This indicates that there is a bias in the preliminary estimate; see Note 1 below
Standard deviation of the revisions	0,41 of a percentage point	Standard deviation is a measure of dispersion about the mean – see the row below
Standard deviation of the revisions, based on 2017–2023	0,21 of a percentage point	
Percentage of revisions that lie within one standard deviation of the mean based on 2017–2023	90,5%	This is the percentage of revisions that lie between -0,18 and 0,24 of a percentage point; the higher the percentage, the lower is the dispersion about the mean

Note 1: Is the mean revision significantly different from zero?

The formula for the test statistic is as follows:

$$test \ statistic = \frac{\bar{R}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n(n-1)}\right)\left(\sum_{t=1}^{n} \hat{\varepsilon}_t^2 + \frac{3}{4}\sum_{t=2}^{n} \hat{\varepsilon}_t \ \hat{\varepsilon}_{t-1} + \frac{2}{3}\sum_{t=3}^{n} \hat{\varepsilon}_t \ \hat{\varepsilon}_{t-2}\right)}}$$

where

 $n = number\ of\ observations$

 $\bar{R} = mean \; revision$

$$\hat{\varepsilon}_t = R_t - \bar{R}$$
 , with $R_t = revision$ in period t

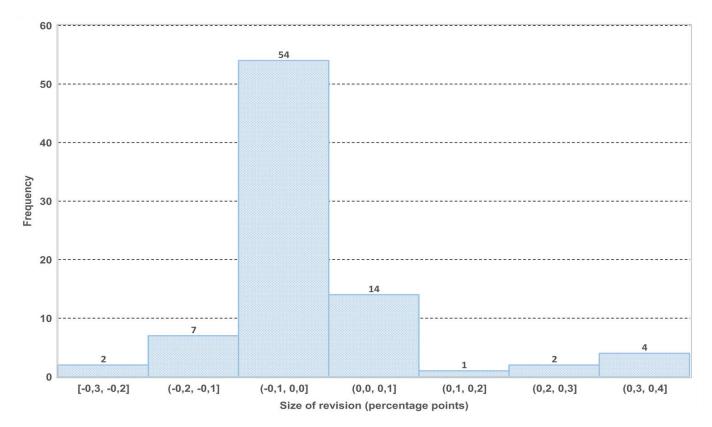
Note that if the test statistic shows that the mean revision (MR) is significantly different from zero, then there is bias in the preliminary estimates. Bias in a series suggests there is scope to enhance the compilation of that series in an attempt to remove or minimise the bias. MR > 0 (statistically significant) implies under-estimation of the preliminary estimates. MR < 0 (statistically significant) implies overestimation of the preliminary estimates.

From 2012 to 2023 the test statistic is 3,85, which lies above the critical value of 1,98, indicating that the MR is significantly different from zero at a 5% significance level. Accordingly, there is under-estimation of the annual growth rates detected in the preliminary estimates. However, this finding is heavily influenced by a change in coverage which had a substantial impact on revised growth rates in 2014 and 2015.

For the period from 2017 to date the test statistic is 0,94, which lies below the critical value of 1,99, indicating that the MR (0,03 for this more recent period) is not significantly different from zero at a 5% significance level (no bias detected for this period).

Figure 4 shows the revisions in terms of a histogram for the period 2017–2023. There were 54 revisions between -0,1 and 0,0 (-0,1 < revision \leq 0,0) and 14 revisions between 0,0 and 0,1 (0,0 < revision \leq 0,1). 81,0% of revisions lay between -0,1 and 0,1 of a percentage point.

Figure 4 – Electricity available for distribution year-on-year growth rates: histogram of revisions (2017 – 2023)



Survey information

Introduction

- 1 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:
 - 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.

Both unadjusted and seasonally adjusted figures are published.

- 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 2019.
- 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

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

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

The 1993 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (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 International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (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 January 2024 was 96%. The improved collection rate for December 2023 was 100%.

Statistical unit

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** Normally revised figures are due to:
 - late submission of data to Stats SA: and
 - revisions or corrections by respondents to previously reported data.

Data are edited at enterprise level.

Rounding-off of figures

Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Historical data

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

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 Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (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.
- The survey is conducted by email 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

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

Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. 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 recognised. 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:

Click to download Electricity seasonal adjustment February 2022.

Trend cycle

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

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.

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 2019. 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 *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (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

IPPs Independent Power Producers

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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Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's 12 official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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