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STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Electricity generated and available for distribution (Preliminary)

January 2026

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 2026

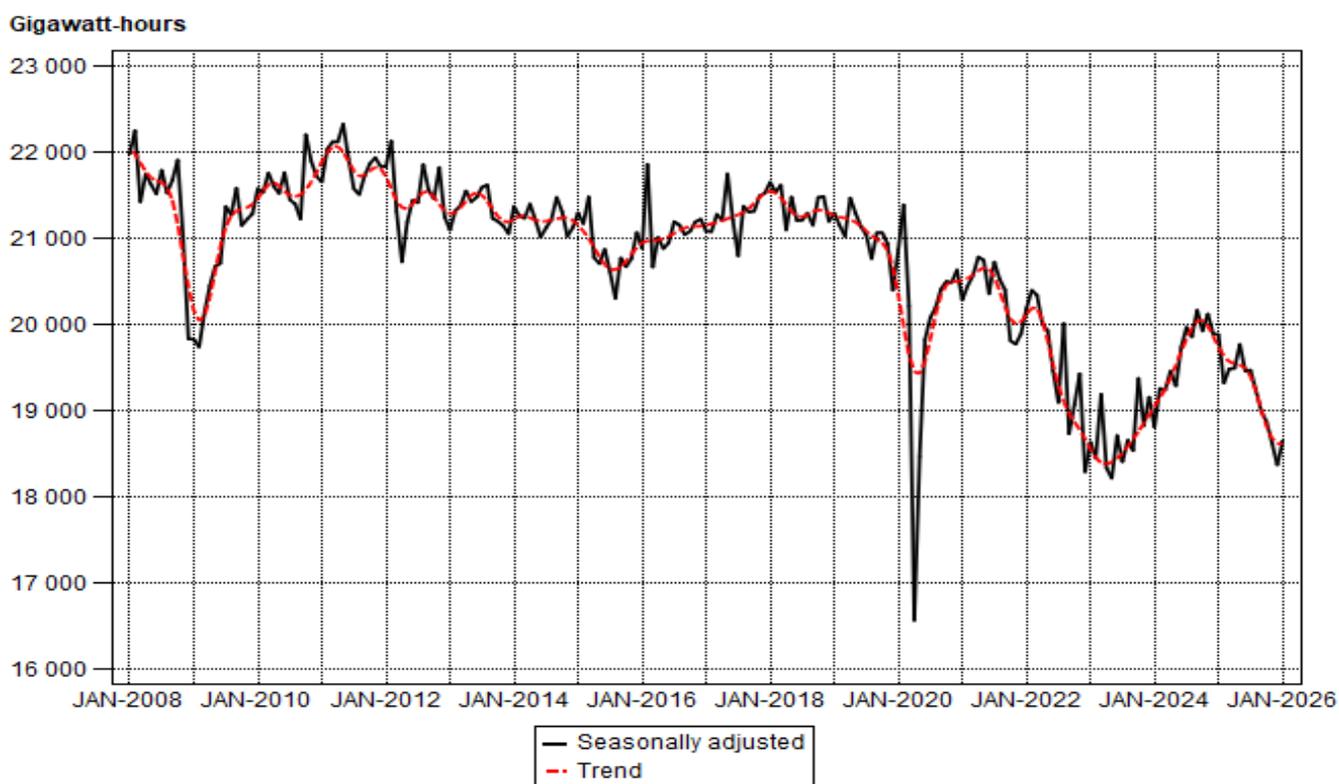
Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated

	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-3,1	-5,7	-5,2	-7,3	-7,8	-6,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,2	-1,3	-0,6	-1,3	-1,4	1,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,0	-1,7	-2,7	-2,9	-3,1	-2,5

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

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 6,2% year-on-year in January 2026. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation increased by 1,5% in January 2026 compared with December 2025, following month-on-month changes of -1,4% in December 2025 and -1,3% in November 2025. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation decreased by 2,5% in the three months ended January 2026 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Electricity generated in South Africa



Electricity distributed (consumed) in South Africa: results for January 2026

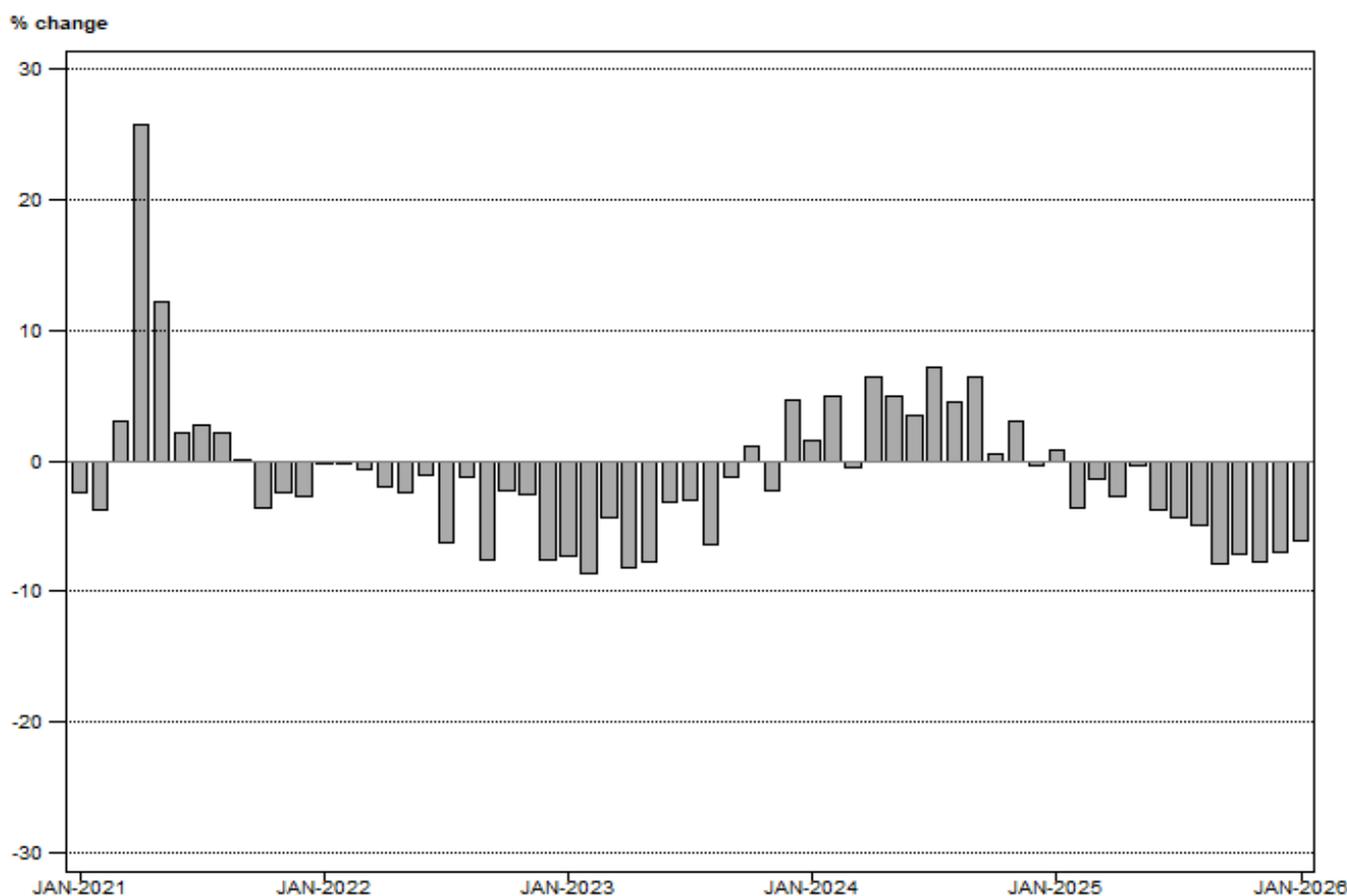
Table B – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed

	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-4,9	-7,9	-7,2	-7,7	-7,0	-6,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,2	-2,6	-0,6	-0,4	0,4	0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-1,8	-2,5	-3,7	-3,7	-2,9	-1,3

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 6,2% year-on-year in January 2026. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution increased by 0,3% month-on-month in January 2026, following month-on-month changes of 0,4% in December 2025 and -0,4% in November 2025. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution decreased by 1,3% in the three months ended January 2026 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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	97,1	93,9	93,0	85,7	86,4	91,3	85,6
Feb	92,2	88,2	87,9	79,4	82,7	82,9	
Mar	95,5	97,2	96,2	90,8	91,0	92,1	
Apr	76,1	95,5	91,9	84,1	89,1	89,2	
May	91,1	102,2	97,9	89,4	94,6	96,9	
Jun	98,3	101,4	97,4	93,8	99,0	97,7	
Jul	102,4	105,7	97,7	94,3	102,5	100,1	
Aug	99,7	101,7	99,5	93,1	99,3	96,2	
Sep	95,7	95,7	87,9	87,0	94,7	89,3	
Oct	99,7	96,2	92,5	94,1	96,8	91,8	
Nov	95,7	92,3	90,5	87,8	93,9	87,0	
Dec	94,3	90,8	83,3	87,0	90,1	83,1	
Total	94,8	96,7	93,0	88,9	93,3	91,5	

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

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 year-to-date
Jan	-3,3	-1,0	-7,8	0,8	5,7	-6,2	-6,2
Feb	-4,3	-0,3	-9,7	4,2	0,2		
Mar	1,8	-1,0	-5,6	0,2	1,2		
Apr	25,5	-3,8	-8,5	5,9	0,1		
May	12,2	-4,2	-8,7	5,8	2,4		
Jun	3,2	-3,9	-3,7	5,5	-1,3		
Jul	3,2	-7,6	-3,5	8,7	-2,3		
Aug	2,0	-2,2	-6,4	6,7	-3,1		
Sep	0,0	-8,2	-1,0	8,9	-5,7		
Oct	-3,5	-3,8	1,7	2,9	-5,2		
Nov	-3,6	-2,0	-3,0	6,9	-7,3		
Dec	-3,7	-8,3	4,4	3,6	-7,8		
Total	2,0	-3,8	-4,4	4,9	-1,9		

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

Month	Base: 2019=100				Month-on-month % change			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	88,5	89,4	94,4	88,6	1,8	-1,8	-0,1	1,5
Feb	87,6	91,5	91,8		-1,0	2,3	-2,8	
Mar	91,2	91,4	92,6		4,1	-0,1	0,9	
Apr	87,1	92,4	92,6		-4,5	1,1	0,0	
May	86,5	91,6	93,9		-0,7	-0,9	1,4	
Jun	88,9	93,7	92,4		2,8	2,3	-1,6	
Jul	87,4	94,9	92,5		-1,7	1,3	0,1	
Aug	88,6	94,3	91,4		1,4	-0,6	-1,2	
Sep	88,1	95,8	90,2		-0,6	1,6	-1,3	
Oct	92,0	94,6	89,7		4,4	-1,3	-0,6	
Nov	89,4	95,6	88,5		-2,8	1,1	-1,3	
Dec	91,0	94,5	87,3		1,8	-1,2	-1,4	

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

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	18 007	17 978	16 673	16 932	17 069	16 016
Feb	16 830	16 821	15 370	16 138	15 559	
Mar	18 527	18 416	17 600	17 506	17 257	
Apr	18 083	17 719	16 280	17 323	16 848	
May	19 377	18 907	17 443	18 313	18 262	
Jun	19 058	18 851	18 247	18 889	18 172	
Jul	20 089	18 826	18 252	19 552	18 684	
Aug	19 465	19 231	17 998	18 800	17 872	
Sep	18 240	16 871	16 663	17 723	16 331	
Oct	18 214	17 797	17 984	18 094	16 795	
Nov	17 726	17 291	16 897	17 426	16 079	
Dec	17 504	16 183	16 934	16 871	15 691	
Total	221 120	214 891	206 341	213 567	204 619	

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

Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 year-to-date
Jan	-0,2	-7,3	1,6	0,8	-6,2	-6,2
Feb	-0,1	-8,6	5,0	-3,6		
Mar	-0,6	-4,4	-0,5	-1,4		
Apr	-2,0	-8,1	6,4	-2,7		
May	-2,4	-7,7	5,0	-0,3		
Jun	-1,1	-3,2	3,5	-3,8		
Jul	-6,3	-3,0	7,1	-4,4		
Aug	-1,2	-6,4	4,5	-4,9		
Sep	-7,5	-1,2	6,4	-7,9		
Oct	-2,3	1,1	0,6	-7,2		
Nov	-2,5	-2,3	3,1	-7,7		
Dec	-7,5	4,6	-0,4	-7,0		
Total	-2,8	-4,0	3,5	-4,2		

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

Month	Gigawatt-hours				Month-on-month % change			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	17 202	17 475	17 644	16 539	2,0	-1,3	-0,4	0,3
Feb	16 831	17 701	17 132		-2,2	1,3	-2,9	
Mar	17 654	17 569	17 335		4,9	-0,7	1,2	
Apr	16 752	17 843	17 384		-5,1	1,6	0,3	
May	16 840	17 683	17 627		0,5	-0,9	1,4	
Jun	17 286	17 857	17 154		2,6	1,0	-2,7	
Jul	16 963	18 102	17 241		-1,9	1,4	0,5	
Aug	17 215	17 927	17 034		1,5	-1,0	-1,2	
Sep	16 928	18 009	16 593		-1,7	0,5	-2,6	
Oct	17 702	17 783	16 495		4,6	-1,3	-0,6	
Nov	17 272	17 818	16 428		-2,4	0,2	-0,4	
Dec	17 699	17 715	16 490		2,5	-0,6	0,4	

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

	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Jan-26 year-on- year % change
Total - all producers						
Generated	18 796	19 323	18 325	17 488	18 029	-6,2
Inflow into South Africa	333	302	509	792	591	0,5
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 512	1 497	1 426	1 336	1 349	-7,1
Outflow from South Africa	1 286	1 334	1 329	1 253	1 255	-2,8
Distributed in South Africa	16 331	16 795	16 079	15 691	16 016	-6,2
National electricity supplier						
Generated	16 262	16 345	15 578	14 454	14 948	-10,1
Inflow into South Africa	333	302	509	792	591	0,5
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 437	1 415	1 355	1 264	1 277	-7,1
Outflow from South Africa	1 286	1 334	1 329	1 253	1 255	-2,8
Distributed in South Africa	13 872	13 898	13 403	12 730	13 007	-10,6

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

Province	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Jan-26 year-on- year % change
Western Cape	1 530	1 546	1 515	1 564	1 640	1,9
Eastern Cape	717	737	683	634	670	-5,6
Northern Cape	452	471	445	465	453	-20,8
Free State	807	839	802	830	827	-8,3
KwaZulu-Natal	3 125	3 189	2 999	3 055	3 117	-0,9
North West	1 358	1 394	1 304	1 258	1 272	-23,9
Gauteng	4 270	4 404	4 274	3 837	3 964	-2,1
Mpumalanga	2 306	2 440	2 358	2 364	2 431	-2,6
Limpopo	1 383	1 404	1 340	1 321	1 272	-22,2
Total	15 949	16 423	15 721	15 327	15 645	-6,8

Analysis of revisions

Introduction

Preliminary monthly data 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 explanatory notes (see note 8 on page 10).

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 2025.

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

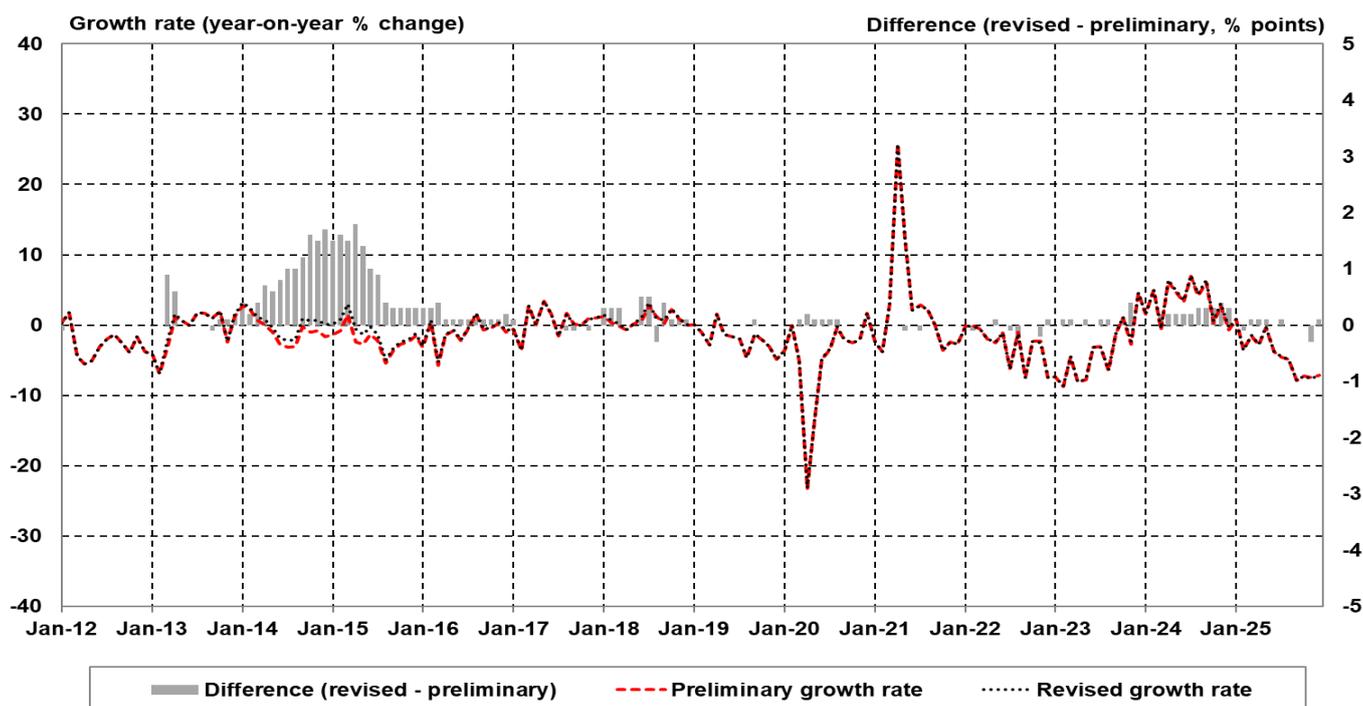


Table 9 – Electricity available for distribution: preliminary and revised

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Average year-on-year growth rate over the whole period	Preliminary: -1,25% Revised: -1,06%	The average of revised growth rates is higher than the average of preliminary growth rates
Mean revision	0,19 of a percentage point	This is the average of the revisions
Mean absolute revision	0,21 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	1,8 percentage points	Preliminary -2,4% was revised up to -0,6% (April 2015)
Largest downward revision	-0,3 of a percentage point	Preliminary 1,2% was revised down to 0,9% (August 2018); and Preliminary -7,4% was revised down to -7,7% (November 2025)
Range for all revisions	-0,3 to 1,8 percentage points	
Range within which 90% of the revisions lie	-0,1 to 1,3 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 2017–2025, 90% of the revisions lay between -0,1 and 0,4 of a percentage point
Number of upward revisions	82 (or 48,8% of the total observations)	
Number of downward revisions	14 (or 8,3% of the total observations)	
Number of zero revisions	72 (or 42,9% of the total observations)	
Is the mean revision (0,19) significantly different from zero?	Yes	This indicates that there a bias in the preliminary estimate; see Note 1 on page 9
Standard deviation of the revisions	0,39 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 2017–2025	0,21 of a percentage point	
Percentage of revisions that lie within one standard deviation of the mean based on 2017–2025	85,2%	This is the percentage of revisions that lie between -0,16 and 0,27 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:

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

where

n = number of observations

\bar{R} = mean revision

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

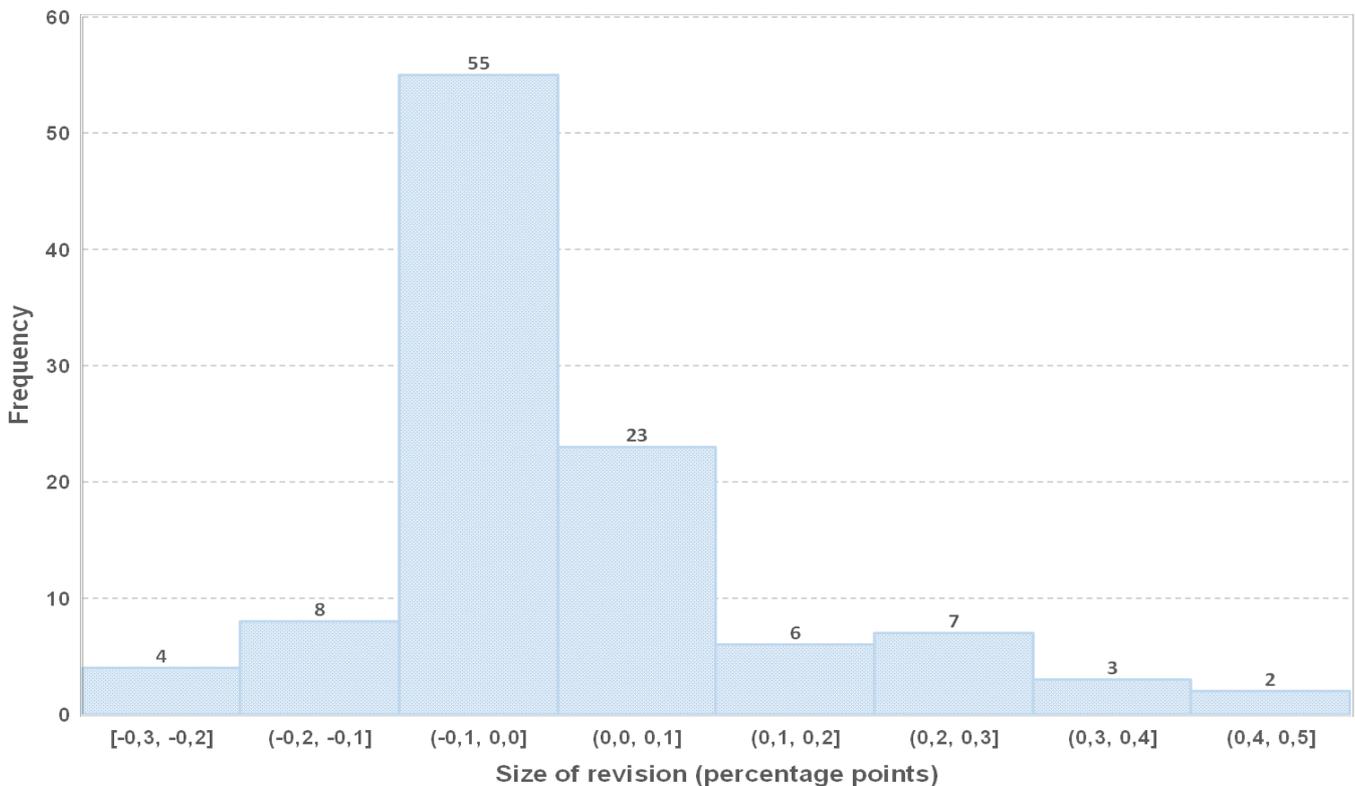
Note that if the test statistic shows that the mean revision (MR) is significantly different from zero, then there is bias in the preliminary estimates. Bias in a series suggests there is scope to enhance the compilation of that series in an attempt to remove or minimise the bias. $MR > 0$ (statistically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

From 2012 to 2025 the test statistic is 4,24, which lies above the critical value of 1,97, 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.

From 2017 to 2025 the test statistic is 1,97, which lies below the critical value of 1,98, indicating that the MR for this period (0,06 of a percentage point) is not significantly different from zero at a 5% significance level. Accordingly, no bias is detected in the preliminary estimates over this period.

Figure 4 shows the revisions in terms of a histogram for the period 2017–2025. There were 55 revisions between -0,1 and 0,0 (-0,1 < revision ≤ 0,0) and 23 revisions between 0,0 and 0,1 (0,0 < revision ≤ 0,1). Around 72,2% of revisions lie between -0,1 and 0,1 of a percentage point.

Figure 4 – Electricity available for distribution year-on-year growth rates: histogram of revisions (2017–2025)



Explanatory notes

- Introduction**
- 1** Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering enterprises 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.
- 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 2019.
- Purpose of the survey**
- 3** 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**
- 4** This survey covers enterprises 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 enterprises, produce electricity for regular use by these enterprises.
- Classification**
- 5** 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 enterprise is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (five-digit) level.
- Collection rate**
- 6** The preliminary collection rate for the survey on electricity generated and available for distribution for January 2026 was 96,2%. The revised collection rate for December 2025 was 84,6%.
- Statistical unit**
- 7** The statistical unit for the collection of information is an enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities.
- Revised figures**
- 8** Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. The reasons for routine revisions are outlined in the following schedule. Any unscheduled revisions will be promptly indicated in relevant tables to maintain transparency and accuracy. It is important to note that seasonally adjusted figures are revised monthly.

Statistical release	Reason for revision	Period subject to revision
Jan-26	Additional information from respondents	Dec-25
Feb-26	Additional information from respondents	Jan-26
Mar-26	Additional information from respondents	Feb-26
Apr-26	Additional information from respondents	Mar-26
May-26	Additional information from respondents	Apr-26
Jun-26	Additional information from respondents	May-26
Jul-26	Additional information from respondents	Jun-26
Aug-26	Additional information from respondents	Jul-26
Sep-26	Additional information from respondents	Aug-26
Oct-26	Additional information from respondents	Sep-26
Nov-26	Additional information from respondents	Oct-26
Dec-26	Additional information from respondents	Nov-26
New base year in 2027/28 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals		

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

Historical data	10	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	11	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 enterprise. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. A sample is drawn from medium and small size enterprises by systematically selecting enterprises within each size category. An enterprise with a total generating capacity of less than 500 kilowatts is excluded from the sample.
	2	The survey is conducted by email and telephone. Information is collected from a sample of 24 enterprises. As from September 2013, the national electricity supplier provided additional data for independent power producers (IPPs) that were not in the original sample of 24 enterprises. As from January 2015, the national electricity supplier provided additional data from IPPs involved in electricity wheeling.
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 enterprises conducting activities concerned with the generation and/or distribution of electricity (excluding the distribution of purchased electric energy). These levels are weighted according to the original sample and designed to represent the population of enterprises conducting activities concerned with the generation and/or distribution of electricity.
Seasonal adjustment	5	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	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.

Glossary

Electricity wheeling	Electricity wheeling refers to the process of transporting electricity from a generator to an end-user (customer) using an existing transmission or distribution network.																
Enterprise	The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities.																
Independent power producer	An independent power producer (IPP) is a private enterprise that generates electricity and sells it to the national electricity supplier or an end-user (customer).																
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 <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	<table> <tr> <td>GDP</td> <td>Gross domestic product</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GWh</td> <td>Gigawatt-hour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IPPs</td> <td>Independent Power Producers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISIC</td> <td>International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIC</td> <td>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SA</td> <td>South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stats SA</td> <td>Statistics South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*</td> <td>Revised figures</td> </tr> </table>	GDP	Gross domestic product	GWh	Gigawatt-hour	IPPs	Independent Power Producers	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities	SA	South Africa	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa	*	Revised figures
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