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Electricity generated and available for distribution (Preliminary)

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

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

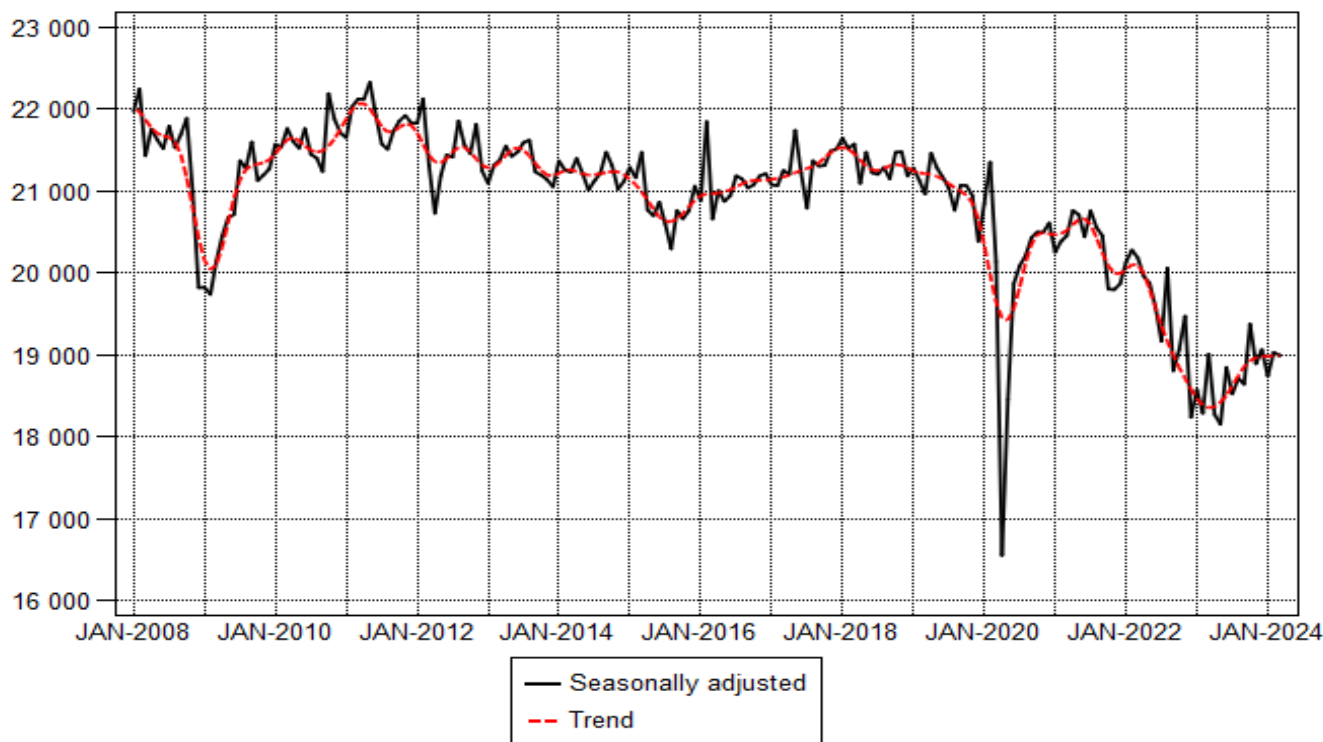
	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,6	-3,0	4,4	0,8	4,2	0,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	4,0	-2,5	0,9	-1,7	1,5	-0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	2,2	1,5	2,6	0,0	-0,1	-1,0

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

Electricity generation (production) was flat in March 2024 compared with March 2023. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation decreased by 0,1% in March 2024 compared with February 2024. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,5% in February 2024 and -1,7% in January 2024. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation decreased by 1,0% in the first quarter of 2024 compared with the fourth quarter of 2023.

Figure 1 – Electricity generated in South Africa

Gigawatt-hours



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

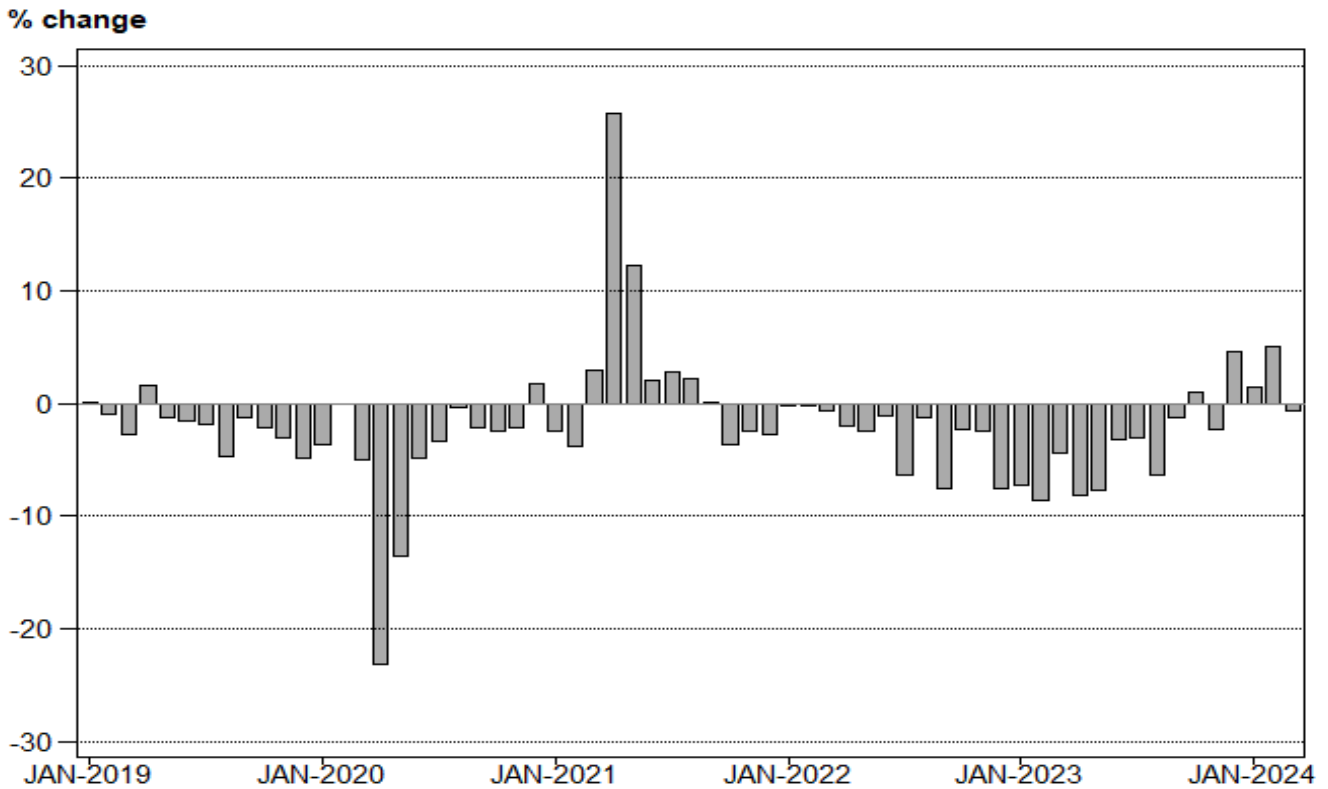
Table B – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed

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

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 0,7% year-on-year in March 2024. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution decreased by 0,8% month-on-month in March 2024, following month-on-month changes of 0,4% in February 2024 and -1,1% in January 2024. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution decreased by 0,7% in the first quarter of 2024 compared with the fourth quarter of 2023.

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



Risenga Maluleke
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	82,7
Mar	102,5	99,5	95,5	97,2	96,2	90,8	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	4,2	2,4
Mar	-2,9	-4,0	1,8	-1,0	-5,6	0,0	1,6
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

Month	Base: 2019=100				Month-on-month % change			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	96,2	95,7	88,3	89,1	-1,7	1,4	1,8	-1,7
Feb	96,9	96,4	86,9	90,4	0,7	0,7	-1,6	1,5
Mar	97,2	95,9	90,3	90,3	0,3	-0,5	3,9	-0,1
Apr	98,7	94,8	86,8		1,5	-1,1	-3,9	
May	98,4	94,4	86,3		-0,3	-0,4	-0,6	
Jun	97,1	93,0	89,6		-1,3	-1,5	3,8	
Jul	98,6	91,1	88,0		1,5	-2,0	-1,8	
Aug	97,7	95,3	88,9		-0,9	4,6	1,0	
Sep	97,2	89,4	88,6		-0,5	-6,2	-0,3	
Oct	94,1	90,6	92,1		-3,2	1,3	4,0	
Nov	94,1	92,5	89,8		0,0	2,1	-2,5	
Dec	94,4	86,7	90,6		0,3	-6,3	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	16 920
Feb	17 493	17 491	16 825	16 815	15 362	16 129
Mar	18 930	17 976	18 522	18 408	17 592	17 465
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	1,5	1,5
Feb	0,0	-3,8	-0,1	-8,6	5,0	3,2
Mar	-5,0	3,0	-0,6	-4,4	-0,7	1,8
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

Month	Gigawatt-hours				Month-on-month % change			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	18 430	18 468	17 147	17 416	-1,4	1,5	2,0	-1,1
Feb	18 389	18 348	16 680	17 494	-0,2	-0,6	-2,7	0,4
Mar	18 488	18 340	17 493	17 352	0,5	0,0	4,9	-0,8
Apr	18 635	18 229	16 745		0,8	-0,6	-4,3	
May	18 595	18 184	16 795		-0,2	-0,2	0,3	
Jun	18 192	17 981	17 391		-2,2	-1,1	3,5	
Jul	18 730	17 573	17 062		3,0	-2,3	-1,9	
Aug	18 753	18 472	17 254		0,1	5,1	1,1	
Sep	18 563	17 187	17 006		-1,0	-7,0	-1,4	
Oct	17 901	17 518	17 696		-3,6	1,9	4,1	
Nov	18 111	17 712	17 311		1,2	1,1	-2,2	
Dec	18 188	16 815	17 613		0,4	-5,1	1,7	

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

	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24 ¹	Mar-24 year-on-year % change
Total - all producers						
Generated	18 474	18 307	18 180	17 410	19 119	0,0
Inflow into South Africa	878	965	981	881	822	-6,9
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 421	1 390	1 390	1 331	1 525	6,4
Outflow from South Africa	1 045	959	852	830	951	-2,1
Distributed in South Africa	16 886	16 923	16 920	16 129	17 465	-0,7
Eskom						
Generated	16 060	15 792	15 603	14 835	16 618	0,1
Inflow into South Africa	878	965	981	881	822	-6,9
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 330	1 311	1 290	1 237	1 434	6,5
Outflow from South Africa	1 045	959	852	830	951	-2,1
Distributed in South Africa	14 563	14 487	14 442	13 648	15 055	-0,7

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

	Jan – Mar 2023 (GWh)	Jan – Mar 2024 (GWh)	% change between Jan – Mar 2023 and Jan – Mar 2024	Difference between Jan – Mar 2023 and Jan – Mar 2024 (GWh)
Total - all producers				
Generated	53 858	54 709	1,6	851
Inflow into South Africa	2 647	2 684	1,4	37
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 062	4 246	4,5	184
Outflow from South Africa	2 825	2 633	-6,8	-192
Distributed in South Africa	49 618	50 514	1,8	896
Eskom				
Generated	46 451	47 056	1,3	605
Inflow into South Africa	2 647	2 684	1,4	37
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	3 795	3 961	4,4	166
Outflow from South Africa	2 825	2 633	-6,8	-192
Distributed in South Africa	42 478	43 145	1,6	667

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

Province	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24 ¹	Mar-24 year-on-year % change
Western Cape	1 486	1 541	* 1 623	1 543	1 635	4,2
Eastern Cape	676	660	674	662	704	3,8
Northern Cape	576	598	529	508	526	4,4
Free State	829	834	834	798	865	0,7
KwaZulu-Natal	3 080	3 140	3 087	2 959	3 219	0,5
North West	1 750	1 681	1 698	1 595	1 773	-6,8
Gauteng	4 129	3 900	4 027	3 896	4 196	-0,6
Mpumalanga	2 512	2 568	2 516	2 340	2 506	-2,9
Limpopo	1 684	1 766	1 719	1 626	1 802	2,3
Total	16 722	16 688	* 16 708	15 928	17 227	-0,3

¹ Preliminary.

* Revised.

Explanatory notes

Introduction	<p>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:</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> <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 2019.</p> <p>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.</p>
Purpose of the survey	<p>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.</p>
Scope of the survey	<p>5 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.</p>
Classification	<p>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 enterprise is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (five-digit) level.</p>
Collection rate	<p>7 The collection rate for the survey on electricity generated and available for distribution for March 2024 was 100%. The collection rate for February 2024 was 100%.</p>
Statistical unit	<p>8 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.</p>
Revised figures	<p>9 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 previously reported data. <p>Data are edited at enterprise level.</p>
Rounding-off of figures	<p>10 Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.</p>
Historical data	<p>11 Historical electricity data are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following link (Time series data) to access the data electronically.</p>
Past publications	<p>12 Past electricity releases are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following link (Past publications) to access the releases electronically.</p>

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, Eskom supplied additional data for independent power producers (IPPs) that were not in the original sample of 24 enterprises. |
| 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 | <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> |
| Seasonal adjustment | 5 | <p>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:</p> <p>Click to download Electricity seasonal adjustment February 2022.</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. |

Glossary

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.																
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</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	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities	SA	South Africa	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa	*	Revised figures
GDP	Gross domestic product																
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Stats SA	Statistics South Africa																
*	Revised figures																

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