stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISIbalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

STATISTICAL RELEASE
P4141

Electricity generated and available for distribution (Preliminary)

May 2026

Embargoed until:
2 July 2026
13:00

ENQUIRIES:
Nicolai Claassen
Tel: 072 310 5351

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
June 2026

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
6 August 2026

Contents

Electricity generated (produced) in South Africa: results for May 2026

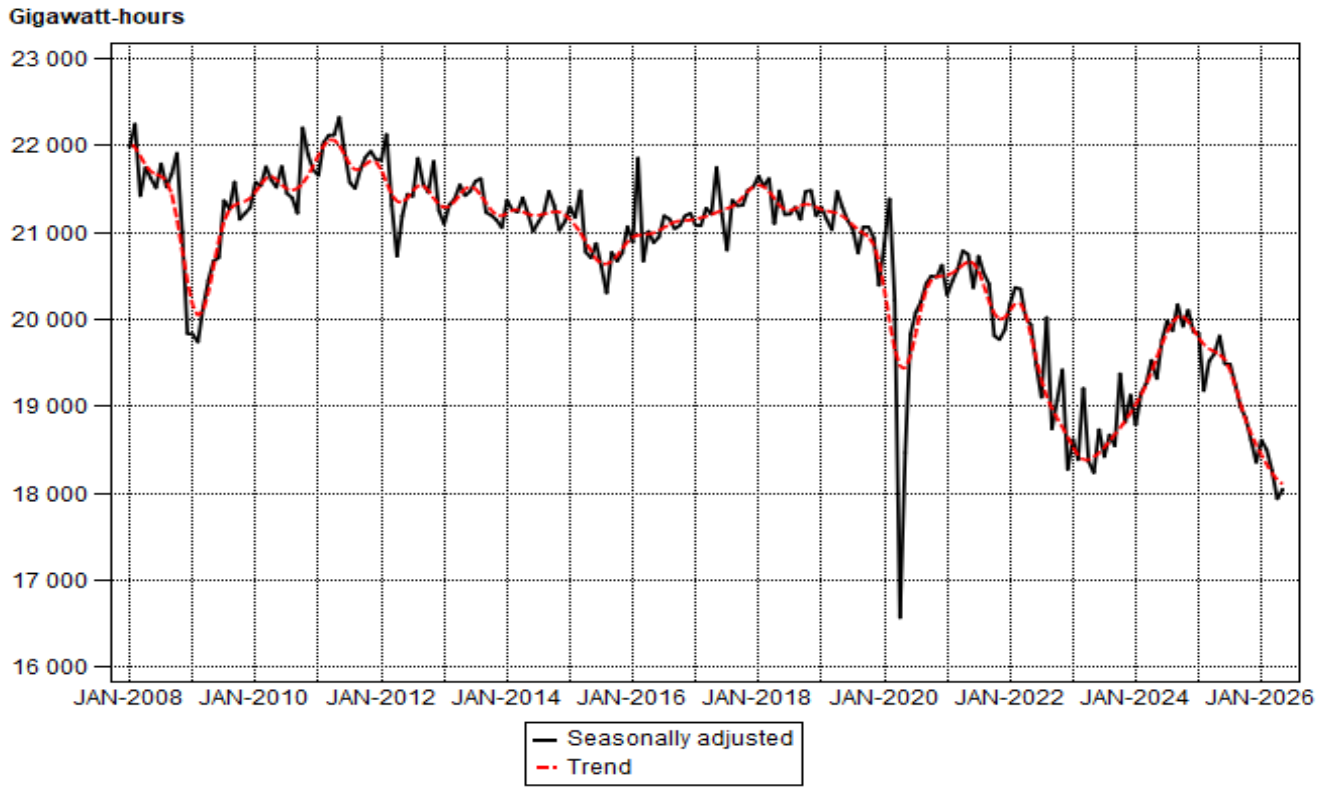
Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-7,8	-6,1	-3,5	-6,6	-8,7	-9,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-1,4	1,4	-0,6	-1,4	-1,7	0,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	-3,3	-2,7	-1,8	-0,8	-1,6	-2,2

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

Electricity generation (production) decreased by 9,0% year-on-year in May 2026. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation increased by 0,6% in May 2026 compared with April 2026, following month-on-month changes of -1,7% in April 2026 and -1,4% in March 2026. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation decreased by 2,2% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the previous three months.

Figure 1 – Electricity generated in South Africa



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

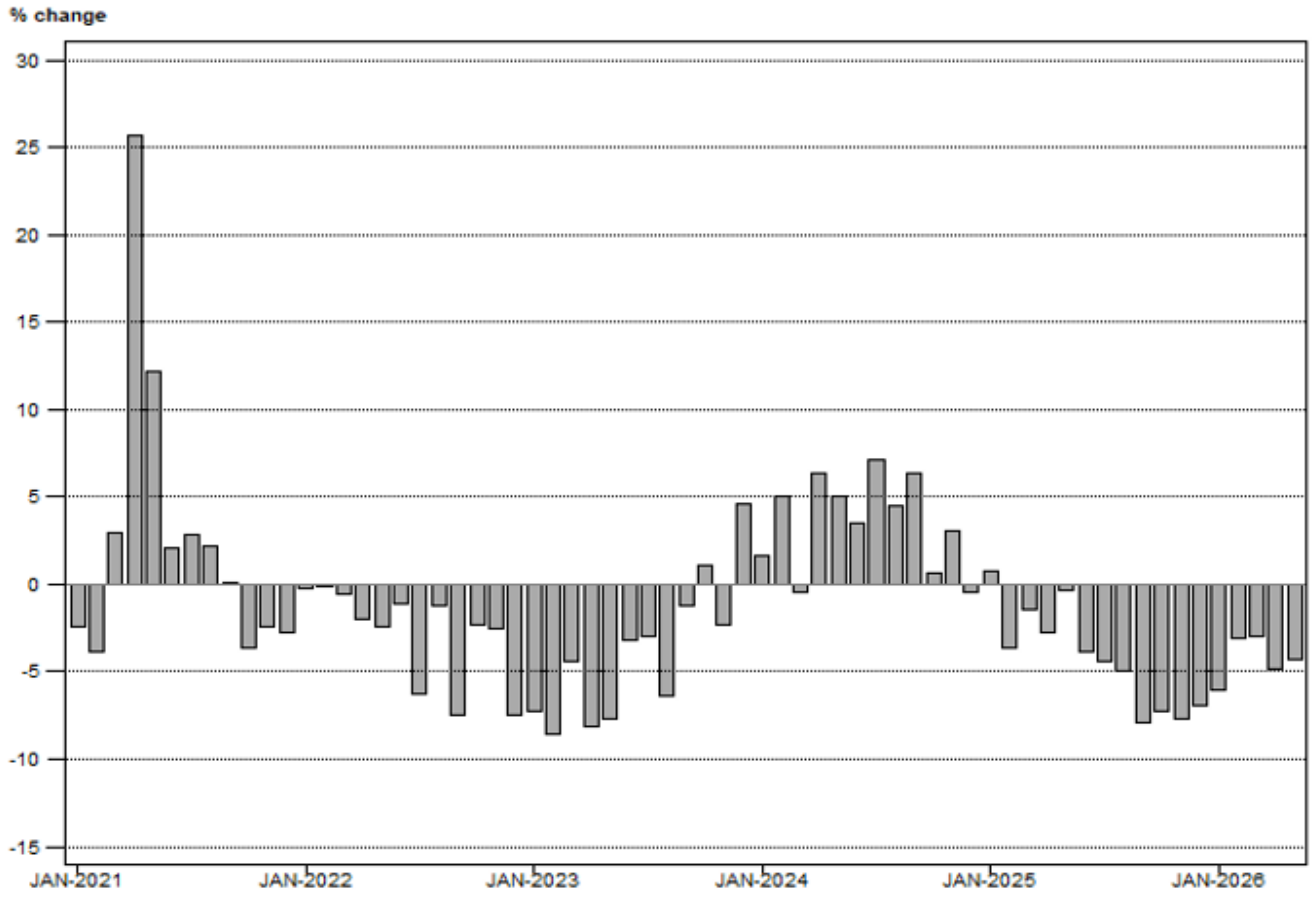
Table B – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-6,9	-6,1	-3,1	-3,0	-4,8	-4,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,4	0,2	-0,4	2,3	-1,4	1,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	-2,9	-1,3	0,0	0,9	1,0	1,7

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

Electricity distribution (consumption) decreased by 4,3% year-on-year in May 2026. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution increased by 1,5% month-on-month in May 2026, following month-on-month changes of -1,4% in April 2026 and 2,3% in March 2026. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution increased by 1,7% in the three months ended May 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	85,7
Feb	92,2	88,2	87,9	79,4	82,7	82,9	* 80,0
Mar	95,5	97,2	96,2	90,8	91,0	92,1	* 86,0
Apr	76,1	95,5	91,9	84,1	89,1	89,2	81,4
May	91,1	102,2	97,9	89,4	94,6	96,9	88,2
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**	

* Revised.

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	-6,1	*-6,1*
Feb	-4,3	-0,3	-9,7	4,2	0,2	-3,5	*-4,9*
Mar	1,8	-1,0	-5,6	0,2	1,2	-6,6	*-5,5*
Apr	25,5	-3,8	-8,5	5,9	0,1	-8,7	*-6,3*
May	12,2	-4,2	-8,7	5,8	2,4	-9,0	*-6,9*
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	89,2	94,2	88,4	2,0	-1,9	-0,1	1,4
Feb	87,3	91,0	91,1	87,9	-1,4	2,0	-3,3	-0,6
Mar	91,2	91,5	92,7	86,7	4,5	0,5	1,8	-1,4
Apr	87,2	92,8	93,1	85,2	-4,4	1,4	0,4	-1,7
May	86,6	91,8	94,1	85,7	-0,7	-1,1	1,1	0,6
Jun	89,0	93,9	92,6		2,8	2,3	-1,6	
Jul	87,5	94,9	92,6		-1,7	1,1	0,0	
Aug	88,7	94,4	91,4		1,4	-0,5	-1,3	
Sep	88,1	95,8	90,2		-0,7	1,5	-1,3	
Oct	92,0	94,6	89,6		4,4	-1,3	-0,7	
Nov	89,4	95,5	88,4		-2,8	1,0	-1,3	
Dec	90,9	94,3	87,2		1,7	-1,3	-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	16 030
Feb	16 830	16 821	15 370	16 138	15 559	* 15 082
Mar	18 527	18 416	17 600	17 506	17 257	* 16 745
Apr	18 083	17 719	16 280	17 323	16 848	16 042
May	19 377	18 907	17 443	18 313	18 262	17 471
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	15 710	
Total	**221 120**	**214 891**	**206 341**	**213 567**	**204 638**	

* Revised.

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	-6,1	*-6,1*
Feb	-0,1	-8,6	5,0	-3,6	-3,1	*-4,6*
Mar	-0,6	-4,4	-0,5	-1,4	-3,0	*-4,1*
Apr	-2,0	-8,1	6,4	-2,7	-4,8	*-4,2*
May	-2,4	-7,7	5,0	-0,3	-4,3	*-4,3*
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	-6,9		
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	17 199	17 468	17 625	16 534	2,0	-1,2	-0,4	0,2
Feb	16 775	17 607	17 013	16 476	-2,5	0,8	-3,5	-0,4
Mar	17 670	17 591	17 364	16 861	5,3	-0,1	2,1	2,3
Apr	16 776	17 899	17 475	16 626	-5,1	1,8	0,6	-1,4
May	16 829	17 676	17 619	16 873	0,3	-1,2	0,8	1,5
Jun	17 295	17 868	17 166		2,8	1,1	-2,6	
Jul	16 975	18 119	17 257		-1,9	1,4	0,5	
Aug	17 222	17 934	17 039		1,5	-1,0	-1,3	
Sep	16 933	18 011	16 592		-1,7	0,4	-2,6	
Oct	17 704	17 785	16 494		4,6	-1,3	-0,6	
Nov	17 273	17 816	16 427		-2,4	0,2	-0,4	
Dec	17 685	17 697	16 493		2,4	-0,7	0,4	

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

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	May-26 year-on-year % change
Total - all producers						
Generated	18 043	* 16 839	* 18 111	17 144	18 575	-8,9
Inflow into South Africa	591	632	730	702	776	23,2
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 349	1 246	1 363	1 312	1 434	-9,3
Outflow from South Africa	1 255	1 144	734	492	446	-62,2
Distributed in South Africa	16 030	* 15 082	* 16 745	16 042	17 471	-4,3
National electricity supplier						
Generated	14 948	14 265	15 599	14 617	16 311	-8,5
Inflow into South Africa	591	632	730	702	776	23,2
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 277	1 192	1 303	1 241	1 367	-8,7
Outflow from South Africa	1 255	1 144	734	492	446	-62,2
Distributed in South Africa	13 007	12 561	14 292	13 586	15 275	-3,2

* Revised.

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

	Jan – May 2025 (GWh)	Jan – May 2026 (GWh)	% change between Jan – May 2025 and Jan – May 2026	Difference between Jan – May 2025 and Jan – May 2026 (GWh)
Total - all producers				
Generated	95 245	88 712	-6,9	-6 533
Inflow into South Africa	2 987	3 431	14,9	444
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	7 418	6 704	-9,6	-714
Outflow from South Africa	5 818	4 071	-30,0	-1 747
Distributed in South Africa	84 995	81 370	-4,3	-3 625
National electricity supplier				
Generated	83 704	75 740	-9,5	-7 964
Inflow into South Africa	2 987	3 431	14,9	444
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	7 042	6 380	-9,4	-662
Outflow from South Africa	5 818	4 071	-30,0	-1 747
Distributed in South Africa	73 830	68 721	-6,9	-5 109

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

Province	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	May-26 year-on-year % change
Western Cape	1 640	1 568	1 703	1 581	1 632	-3,6
Eastern Cape	684	636	711	721	758	1,1
Northern Cape	453	* 380	* 422	332	355	-24,3
Free State	827	771	828	819	920	-0,6
KwaZulu-Natal	3 117	2 860	3 157	3 029	3 203	-3,6
North West	1 272	1 253	1 348	1 262	1 397	-15,5
Gauteng	3 964	3 781	4 305	4 222	4 854	0,2
Mpumalanga	2 431	2 222	2 513	2 387	2 488	-4,1
Limpopo	1 272	1 269	1 387	1 359	1 464	-10,9
Total	**15 659**	*** 14 739**	*** 16 373**	**15 711**	**17 068**	**-4,7**

* Revised.

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 May 2026 was 92,3%. The revised collection rate for April 2026 was 96,2%.

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
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
Jan-27	Additional information from respondents New base year for electricity generated	Jan-85 - Dec-26
Feb-27	Additional information from respondents	Jan-27
Mar-27	Additional information from respondents	Feb-27
Apr-27	Additional information from respondents	Mar-27
New base year in 2026/27 - 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 *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (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 *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 of All Economic Activities
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
SA	South Africa
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
*	Revised figures

Technical enquiries

Tsholofelo Ditinti

Telephone number: (012) 310 6990 / 076 583 4844
Email: tsholofelod@statssa.gov.za

Nicolai Claassen

Telephone number: (012) 310 8007 / 072 310 5351
Email: nicolaic@statssa.gov.za

General information

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 locally and by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English.

Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za.

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, Qonce
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Mbombela
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data is available via online services. For more details about our electronic data services, contact Stats SA's user information service at (012) 310 8600.

You can visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za.

General enquiries

User information services	Telephone number: (012) 310 8600 Email address: info@statssa.gov.za
Orders/subscription services	Telephone number: (012) 310 8619 Email address: millies@statssa.gov.za
Postal address	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA