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1. Introduction

The statistical report 41-01-02 (2006) *Electricity, gas and water supply 2006* is published periodically (every 3 to 5 years) and replaces the *Census of electricity, gas and steam* (Report 41-01-01) which was last published on 08 September 1997.

Estimates are presented in respect of the 2006 electricity, gas and water supply Large Sample Survey (LSS). The 2006 electricity, gas and water supply LSS collected data through a census of 35 enterprises which were operating between 01 July 2005 and 30 June 2006.

The statistical unit for the collection of data is an enterprise. An enterprise is a legal unit (or a combination of legal units) that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities. Each enterprise is classified to an industry that reflects its predominant activity.

The estimates are presently published at national level only.

1.1 Scope and coverage

The 2006 electricity, gas and water supply Large Sample Survey covers enterprises registered in the taxation system that are mainly engaged in providing electricity, gas and water supply services. The activities are grouped as follows:

- SIC 41111 Generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy for the purpose of selling
- SIC 41112 Distribution of purchased electricity only
- SIC 41200 Manufacture and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains
- SIC 41300 Steam and hot water supply (not included in the report due to non-response)
- SIC 42000 Collection, purification and distribution of water to household, industrial, commercial and other users

Exclusions:

- Enterprises which generate electricity for own use (e.g. manufacturing companies)
- Enterprises which are engaged in water supply for irrigation for agricultural purposes
- Enterprises which manufacture and distribute liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)
- Enterprises which are engaged in sanitation and other waste water treatment

1.2 Data items

The following categories of data items were collected: industrial classification, details of employment, income, expenditure, profit or loss, inventories, book value of assets, and details of sales and services rendered.

1.3 Reference period

The questionnaires were completed for the financial year of the enterprise which ends on any date between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006, according to the usual reporting schedule of the enterprise.

Example

- 1 October 2004 – 30 September 2005
- 1 January 2005 – 31 December 2005
- 1 February 2005 – 31 January 2006
- 1 March 2005 – 28 February 2006
- 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006

1.4 Current prices

The rand values are at current prices.

1.5 Reliability of data

Data were collected at the 5-digit SIC level of classification of enterprises and the response rate was 82,9%.

All the estimates compiled for this industry are subject only to non-sampling errors because a census of the industry was conducted.

The following are some of the likely sources of non-sampling errors: sampling frame not up to date, wrong definitions and classification, phrasing of questions, non-response, and processing and estimation. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Non-sampling errors occur in both sample surveys and censuses.

1.6 Confidentiality

According to Section 17 of the Statistics Act, 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999), completed questionnaires remain confidential to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Individual business information is never disclosed. Results are presented in an aggregated form only.

2. Background to the programme of large sample surveys

The large sample surveys serve to document comprehensively the structure and financial characteristics of all industries within the economy.

Previously, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) periodically conducted industry censuses, i.e. collections covering all entities known to be mainly engaged in particular sectors. The last industry 'census' was conducted for the manufacturing sector in 1996. Since then, Stats SA has replaced industry censuses with periodic 'large sample surveys' of industry sectors. These surveys are based on larger samples than the sub-annual and annual surveys. They do not attempt to completely enumerate all entities within the industry scope of the surveys, but are based on stratified random samples which are representative of the survey population.

2.1 Purpose and uses of large sample surveys

The large sample survey results are used for benchmarking the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, production and price indices, annual and short-term statistical series, and for comparisons within and between industries.

Users of the large sample surveys programme include the following:

- Price statisticians, particularly in refreshing the commodity basket of producer price indices;
- Policy advisers in government for monitoring the performance of industries and their contribution to the South African economy and evaluating the effectiveness of industry policies;
- Industry associations monitoring trends in their own and competing or complementary industries in order to inform their members of market changes; and
- Individual businesses using the data to analyse their performance relative to their industry.

2.2 Scope and coverage of large sample surveys

This programme covers enterprises registered in the taxation system (VAT and income tax) that are mainly engaged in the following industries as defined in the Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC):

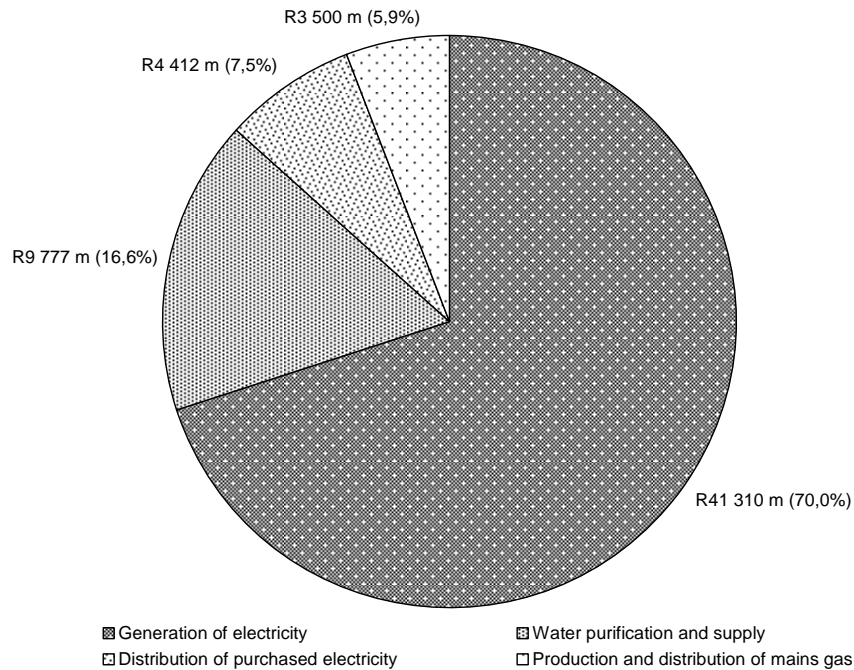
- Mining and quarrying
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, gas and water supply
- Construction
- Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles and personal and household goods, and hotels and restaurants
- Transport, storage and communication
- Financial intermediation, insurance, real estate and business services
- Community, social and personal services (except national, provincial and local government activities).

Note: The agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and related services industry (SIC 1) is not included as it is covered by a separate programme within Statistics South Africa. Similarly, the public administration and defence activities industry (SIC 92), financial intermediation (SIC 81) and insurance and pension funding (SIC 82) are covered by other programmes both within Stats SA and elsewhere (e.g. South African Reserve Bank).

3. Summary of findings for the year 2006

3.1 Income

Figure 1 – Breakdown of income in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

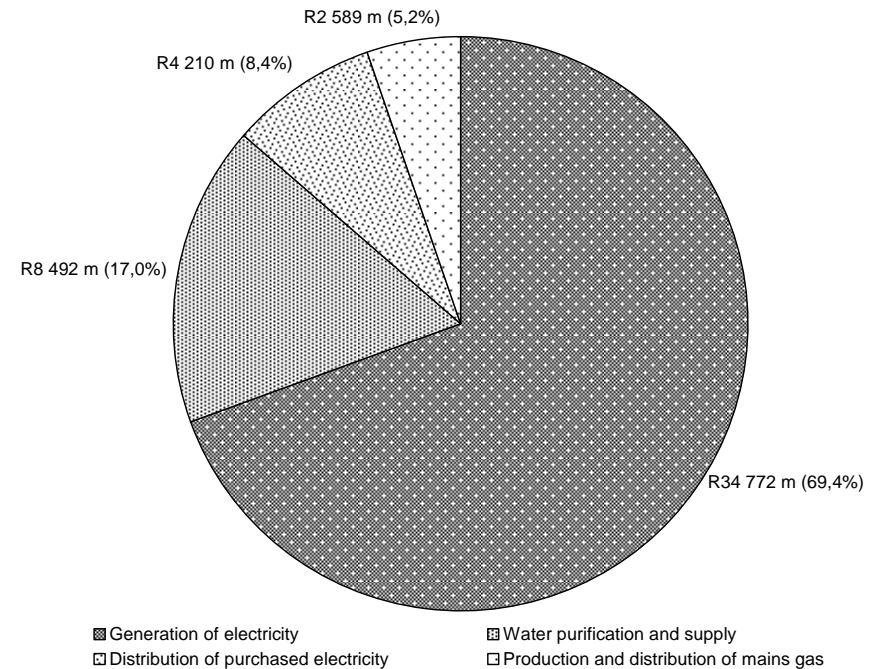


The total income for the electricity, gas and water supply industry in 2006 was R58 999 million. The largest contributor to the total income was ‘Generation of electricity’ (R41 310 million or 70,0%), followed by ‘Water purification and supply’ (R9 777 million or 16,6%), ‘Distribution of purchased electricity’ (R4 412 million or 7,5%) and ‘Production and distribution of mains gas’ (R3 500 million or 5,9%) (Figure 1).

Large enterprises (those with a turnover greater than R26 million) in the electricity, gas and water supply industry generated 99,8% (R58 868 million) of the total income.

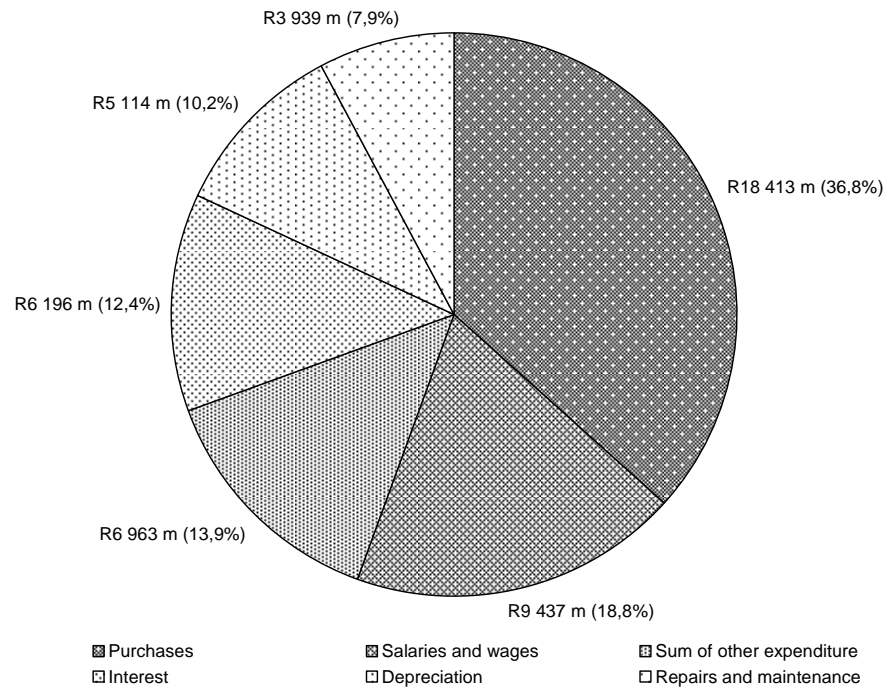
3.2 Expenditure

Figure 2 – Breakdown of expenditure in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006



The total expenditure for the electricity, gas and water supply industry in 2006 was R50 063 million. The largest contributor to the total expenditure was ‘Generation of electricity’ (R34 772 million or 69,4%), followed by ‘Water purification and supply’ (R8 492 million or 17,0%), ‘Distribution of purchased electricity’ (R4 210 million or 8,4%) and ‘Production and distribution of mains gas’ (R2 589 million or 5,2%) (Figure 2).

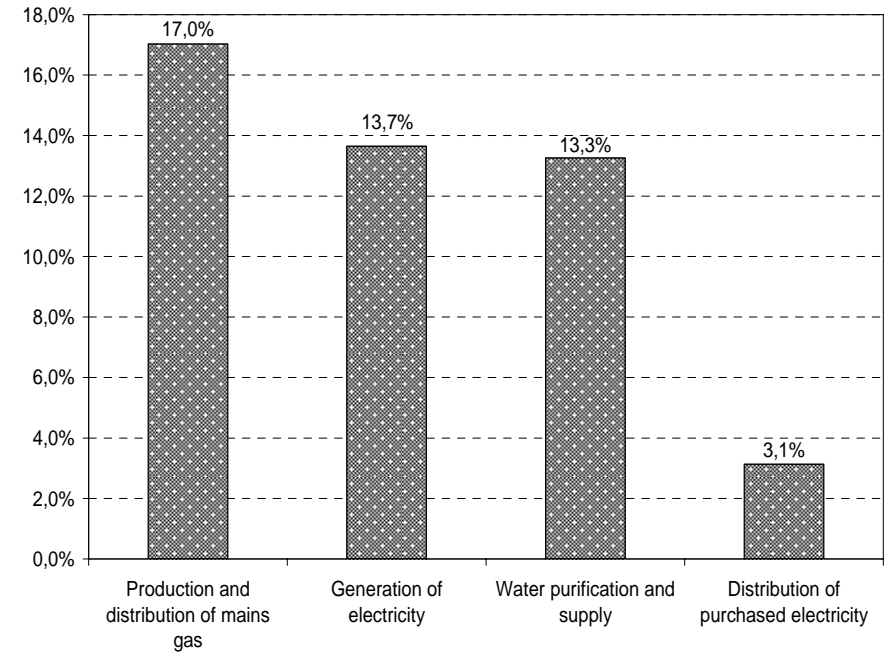
Figure 3 – Major expenditure items in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006



The expenditure for the electricity, gas and water supply industry in 2006 was composed primarily of purchases (R18 413 million or 36,8%), followed by salaries and wages (R9 437 million or 18,8%) and interest (R6 196 million or 12,4%) (Figure 3).

3.3 Profit margin

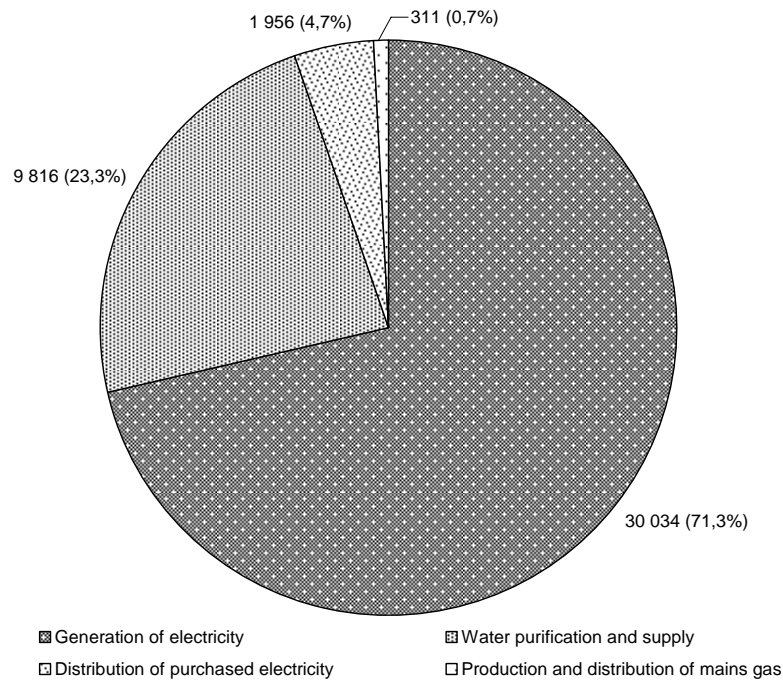
Figure 4 – Breakdown of profit margin in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006



The profit margin (net profit after tax as a percentage of turnover) for the electricity, gas and water supply industry in 2006 was 13,0%. 'Production and distribution of mains gas' had the highest profit margin at 17,0%, followed by 'Generation of electricity' (13,7%), 'Water purification and supply' (13,3%), and 'Distribution of purchased electricity' (3,1%) (Figure 4).

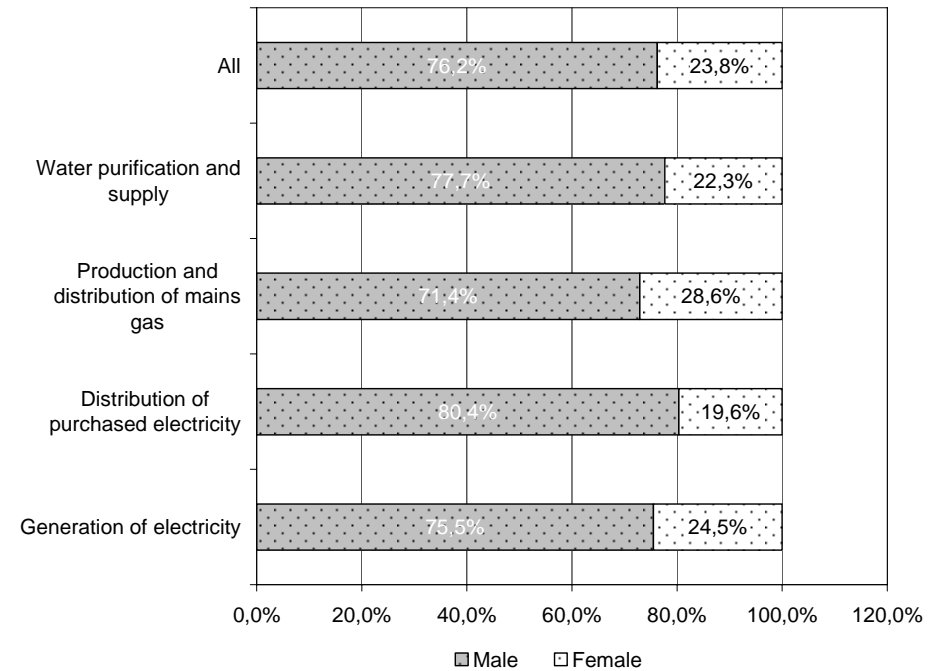
3.4 Employment

Figure 5 – Breakdown of employment in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006



The total number of persons employed in the electricity, gas and water supply industry at the end of June 2006 was 42 117. 'Generation of electricity' had the largest number of employees (30 034 or 71,3%), followed by 'Water purification and supply' (9 816 or 23,3%), 'Distribution of purchased electricity' (1 956 or 4,7%) and 'Production and distribution of mains gas' (311 or 0,7%) (Figure 5).

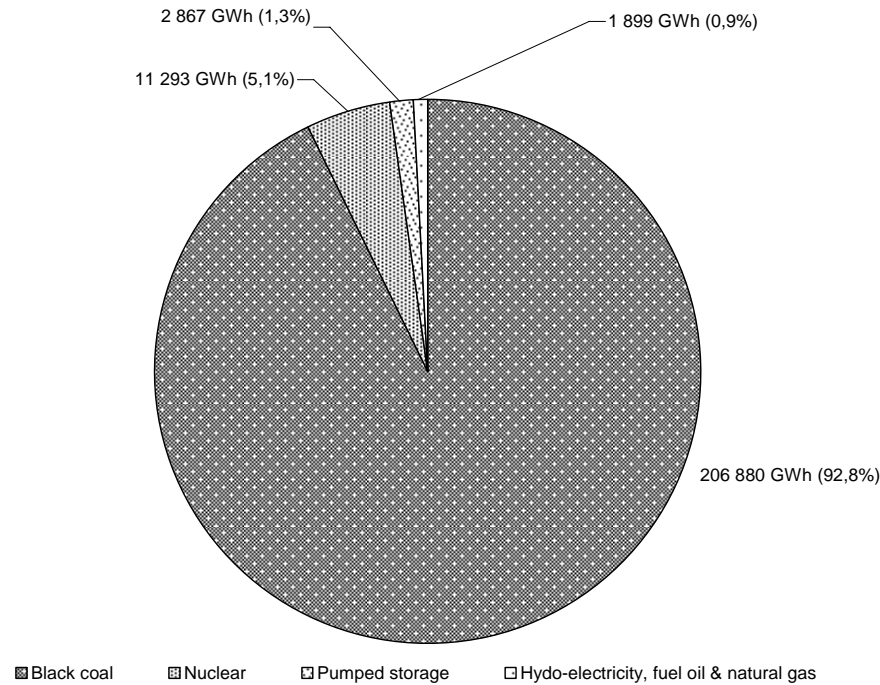
Figure 6 – Proportion of male to female employees in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006



Female employees accounted for 23,8% of the total workforce in the electricity, gas and water supply industry at the end of June 2006. The proportion of female employees ranges from 19,6% in the 'Distribution of purchased electricity' to 28,6% in the 'Production and distribution of mains gas' (Figure 6).

3.5 Volume of electricity generated

Figure 7 – Fuel and other energy sources used in the generation of electricity, 2006

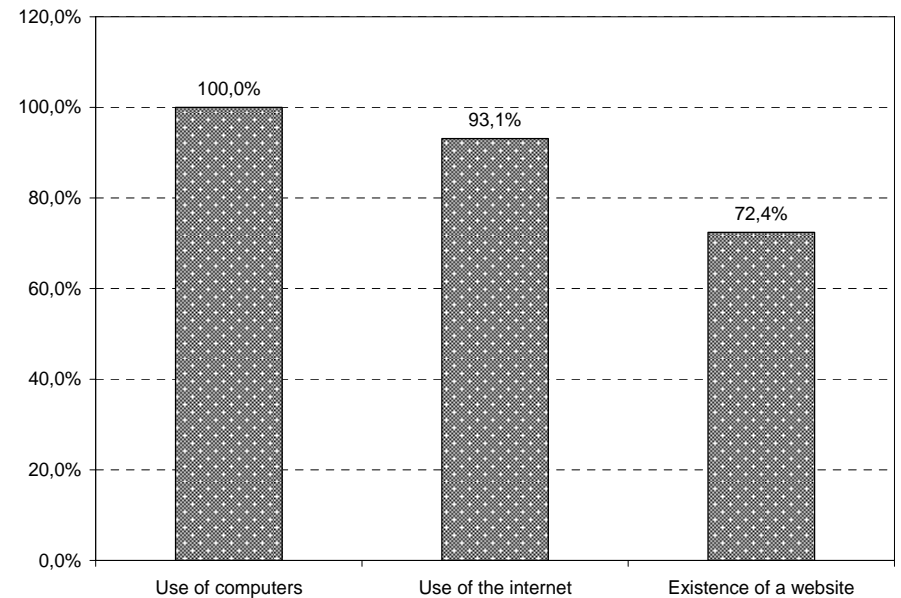


The total volume of electricity generated in RSA and purchased from neighbouring countries in the electricity, gas and water supply industry in 2006 was 233 249 GWh. The volume of electricity purchased from neighbouring countries for resale was 10 310 GWh.

Most of the electricity was generated from black coal (206 880 GWh or 92,8%), followed by nuclear (11 293 GWh or 5,1%), pumped storage (2 867GWh or 1,3%), hydro-electricity (1 141 GWh or 0,5%), fuel oil (680 GWh or 0,3%) and natural gas (78 GWh or 0,03%) (Figure 7).

3.6 Information and communication technology (ICT) usage

Figure 8 – ICT usage in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006



All the enterprises in the electricity, gas and water supply industry made use of computers for business purposes in 2006. The proportion of enterprises in the electricity, gas and water supply industry which used the Internet for business purposes in 2006 was 93,1% and the proportion of enterprises which owned a website for business purposes was 72,4% (Figure 8).

PJ Lehohla

Statistician-General

4. Tables

Table 1: Principal statistics in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Total income	Total expenditure	Total value of opening inventory	Total value of closing inventory	Net profit before tax	Book value of fixed assets at the beginning of the year	Book value of fixed assets at the end of the year	Capital expenditure on new assets
	R million							
Generation of electricity	41 310	34 772	2 818	3 285	7 006	58 797	64 674	10 577
Distribution of purchased electricity	4 412	4 210	36	29	195	3 026	3 809	830
Production and distribution of mains gas	3 500	2 589	84	75	901	2 055	1 975	94
Water purification and supply	9 777	8 492	80	72	1 277	11 408	11 848	1 182
Total	58 999	50 063	3 018	3 461	9 379	75 286	82 306	12 683

Table 2: Profit margin in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Net profit after tax	Turnover	Profit margin
	R million		%
Generation of electricity	4 911	35 977	13,7
Distribution of purchased electricity	133	4 243	3,1
Production and distribution of mains gas	594	3 488	17,0
Water purification and supply	1 162	8 761	13,3
Total	6 800	52 469	13,0

Table 3: Income in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Sales and Services	Interest	Rental of land, buildings and other structures	Leasing and hiring of plant, machinery and equipment	Sale or revaluation of assets	Other income	Total income
	R million						
Generation of electricity	35 921	2 939	56	0	1 211	1 183	41 310
Distribution of purchased electricity	4 233	59	1	9	0	110	4 412
Production and distribution of mains gas	3 488	12	0	0	0	0	3 500
Water purification and supply	8 676	408	1	85	80	527	9 777
Total	52 318	3 418	58	94	1 291	1 820	58 999

Table 4: Expenditure in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Salaries and wages	Purchases	Accommodation	Depreciation	Insurance	Interest	Losses on assets	Railage and transport out	Rental of land and buildings	Rental of plant, machinery and equipment
	R million									
Generation of electricity	7 333	11 155	106	4 365	596	4 880	0	240	79	3
Distribution of purchased electricity	422	2 559	0	219	26	296	147	0	0	45
Production and distribution of mains gas	83	1 258	1	111	16	60	63	648	3	1
Water purification and supply	1 599	3 441	6	420	39	960	108	0	9	60
Total	9 437	18 413	113	5 115	677	6 196	318	888	91	109

Table 4: Expenditure in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006 (concluded)

Sub-group	Repairs and maintenance	Security	Telecommunication	Water and electricity	Property tax	Regional services levy	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
	R million							
Generation of electricity	3 677	88	376	47	59	67	1 686	34 772
Distribution of purchased electricity	100	34	12	2	7	5	257	4 210
Production and distribution of mains gas	9	1	3	1	2	4	319	2 589
Water purification and supply	153	19	26	358	4	11	1 107	8 492
Total	3 939	142	417	408	72	87	3 369	50 063

Table 5: Book value of fixed assets in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Land	Residential buildings	Non-residential buildings	Construction works	Computers and IT equipment	Transport equipment	Plant machinery and equipment	Computer software	Other intangible fixed assets
	R million								
Generation of electricity	258	0	1 568	6 708	0	1 750	53 969	421	0
Distribution of purchased electricity	9	0	198	0	0	0	3 082	0	0
Production and distribution of mains gas	9	0	4	0	0	2	1 951	0	9
Water purification and supply	82	573	268	4 516	36	87	5 928	77	157
Total	358	573	2 038	11 224	36	1 839	64 930	498	166

Table 5: Book value of fixed assets in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006 (concluded)

Sub-group	Intangible non-produced assets	Other fixed assets	Total
	R million		
Generation of electricity	0	0	64 674
Distribution of purchased electricity	416	104	3 809
Production and distribution of mains gas	0	0	1 975
Water purification and supply	74	50	11 848
Total	490	154	82 306

Table 6: Capital expenditure on new assets in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Land, buildings and construction	Computer and computer software	Vehicles	Plant, machinery and equipment	Other assets	Total
	R million					
Generation of electricity	2 119	219	800	7 439	0	10 577
Distribution of purchased electricity	0	0	0	823	7	830
Production and distribution of mains gas	0	0	2	92	0	94
Water purification and supply	667	30	21	463	1	1 182
Total	2 786	249	823	8 817	8	12 683

Table 7: Company tax, cash dividends, total assets, equity and liabilities in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Company tax	Cash dividends	Assets			Owners' equity and liabilities			
			Non-current assets	Current assets	Total assets	Current liabilities	Non-current liabilities	Owners' equity	Total equity and liabilities
R million									
Generation of electricity	2 095	1 643	90 788	34 090	124 878	27 414	49 259	48 205	124 878
Distribution of purchased electricity	62	0	3 852	2 128	5 980	1 093	4 413	474	5 980
Production and distribution of mains gas	307	182	2 725	540	3 265	657	1 649	959	3 265
Water purification and supply	115	0	12 520	3 784	16 304	2 305	7 155	6 844	16 304
Total	2 579	1 825	109 885	40 542	150 427	31 469	62 476	56 482	150 427

Table 8: Employment in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Male employees	Female employees	Total
Generation of electricity	22 683	7 351	30 034
Distribution of purchased electricity	1 572	384	1 956
Production and distribution of mains gas	222	89	311
Water purification and supply	7 623	2 193	9 816
Total	32 100	10 017	42 117

Table 9: Volume of electricity generated in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Method of generation							Total
	Black coal	Fuel oil	Natural gas	Hydro-electricity	Nuclear	Pumped storage	Purchased	
	GWh							
Generation of electricity	206 880	680	78	1 141	11 293	2 867	10 310	233 249

[GWh = gigawatt-hour: a unit of electricity which is equals to a million kilowatt-hour. A kilowatt-hour is the basic unit of electricity used in RSA. (See Glossary, page 23)]

Table 10: Sales of electricity in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Sub-group	Sales and services		Exported		For own consumption
	GWh	R million	GWh	R million	GWh
Generation of electricity	210 015	35 921	13 122	1 290	3 814
Distribution of purchased electricity	13 199	4 162	0	0	2

Table 11: Sales of gas in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Type of gas	Quantity	Income from sales and services
	GJ	R' million
Compressed natural gas	52 202 000	1 918
Methane-rich gas	24 086 197	704
Synthetic gas	35 802 000	866
Total	112 090 197	3 488

[GJ = Gigajoule: a unit of energy which is equal to a billion joules (See Glossary, page 24)]

Table 12: Purchases of gas for resale in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Purchases	Quantity	Cost
	GJ	R' million
Gas purchased in RSA	22 503 746	450
Gas purchased outside RSA	94 245 000	603
Total	116 748 746	1 053

Table 13: Volume of water distributed in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Water distribution	Volume	Income received
	Million m ³	R million
Supplied to government (except municipalities)	8	34
Supplied to municipalities	1 821	5 139
Supplied to industry	47	173
Supplied to mining	175	460
Supplied to commercial users	90	841
Supplied households	295	1 846
Total water supplied	2 436	8 494
Distribution losses	171	
Water available for distribution	2 607	

[One cubic metre (m³) is equal to exactly 1 000 litres (See Glossary, page 24)]

Table 14: Purchases of inputs for the generation of electricity in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Input	Units	Quantity
Black coal	Metric tons (t)	113 484 677
Natural gas	Gigajoules (GJ)	Not available
Fuel oil	Kilolitres (kl)	14 040
Nuclear material	Kilograms (kg)	Not available
Water	Megalitres (MI)	291 516

(One metric ton = 1000kg, one gigajoule = 1000 000 000 joules, one kilolitre = 1000 litres and one megalitre = 1000 000 litres)

Explanatory notes

Business register The sampling frame was drawn from Stats SA’s business register. The business register is based mainly on the income tax (IT) and value-added tax (VAT) databases of the South African Revenue Service (SARS). All enterprises are legally bound to register for either VAT or IT or both. Enterprises registered in the taxation system are included on the business register, and hence were given a chance of selection in the sample for the survey.

Value Added Tax (VAT) All figures exclude Value Added Tax (VAT).

Classification by industry The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-09-02, 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. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division (five-digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to an industry, which reflects its predominant activity.

Size groups The enterprises are divided into four size groups according to the value of turnover recorded for them on the Stats SA business register. Large enterprises are those with an annual recorded turnover of R26 million and above. Table 15 presents the size groups defined using the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) cut-off points,

Table 15: Size groups for the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2006

Size group	Turnover
Large	Turnover > R26 000 000
Medium	R13 000 000 < Turnover < R26 000 000
Small	R6 000 000 < Turnover < R13 000 000
Micro	Turnover < R6 000 000

Survey methodology and design The survey was conducted by post, email, fax, telephone and personal visits.

A census of 35 enterprises in the sampling frame was conducted. The enterprises were first stratified at five-digit level according to the SIC and then by enterprise size. Turnover as recorded on the business register was used as the measure of size for stratification.

Weighting methodology All the enterprises were each assigned a weight of one because a census of the industry was conducted.

Relative standard error and confidence intervals A census of 35 enterprises was conducted and hence the estimates are subject only to non-sampling errors. Relative standard error and confidence intervals do not apply to the survey.

Comparability with previously published information The information in this publication is comparable with the electricity, gas and water supply industry in the Annual Financial Survey, 2006 and Monthly Electricity Survey, 2006. The employment and earnings figures are comparable to Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the same period of the survey.

Rounding of figures The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded to the nearest final digit shown. There may therefore be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items of the totals shown.

Abbreviations

BR	Business register
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
IT	Income tax
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
SNA	System of National Accounts
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
VAT	Value-added tax

Glossary

Employees	Employees are those people employed by the business or organisation who received payment (in salaries, wages, commission, piece rates or payments in kind) for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2006.
Enterprise	A legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities.
Industry	An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC)</i> .
Net profit or loss before tax	Net profit or loss before tax is derived as: Total income plus Closing stocks minus Total expenditure minus Opening stocks
Profit margin	Profit margin is derived as: Net profit or loss after tax divided by turnover multiplied by 100
Statistical unit	A unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
Stratum	A stratum is constructed by concatenating the SIC classification and size group variables
Sub-contractors	Includes labour brokers
Unit of electricity	The gigawatt-hour (GWh) 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.

Unit of gas	The gigajoule (GJ) is the derived unit of energy in the International System of Units (SI) equal to one billion joules (10^9 J). A joule is the basic unit of energy and it is the work done to produce one watt continuously for one second.
Unit of water	The cubic metre (m³) is the SI derived unit of volume. It is the volume of a cube with edges of one metre in length. One cubic metre is equal to exactly 1 000 litres. An alternative name, not widely used anymore, is the kilolitre.
Turnover	<p>Turnover includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the value of sales• amounts received for work done• amounts received for services rendered• rent and/or lease payments received for land and buildings• rent, leasing and hiring received for machinery, vehicles and other equipment <p>Turnover excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• value-added tax (VAT)• net profit or loss on sales or revaluation of fixed assets (including profit or loss on foreign exchange)• export freight charges• interest received• excise duty