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1. Introduction

1.1 Aim and collection unit

This publication presents estimates in respect of the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024. The survey aims to provide financial, production, employment and related information for the electricity, gas and water supply industry in South Africa.

The last survey was conducted in 2021 (Report No. 41-01-02 (2021)).

1.2 Scope and coverage

The 2024 electricity, gas and water supply industry large sample survey (LSS) covers enterprises registered for value-added tax (VAT) that are mainly engaged in the following activities classified according to the January 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth edition, Report No. 09-90-02:

- generation, transmission and distribution of electricity (SIC 4111);
 - generation (SIC 41111);
 - distribution of purchased electric energy only (SIC 41112); and
 - generation and/or distribution for own use (SIC 41113).
- manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains (SIC 41200); and
- collection, purification and distribution of water (SIC 42000).

The following activities are excluded:

- municipalities (included in SIC 91300);
- enterprises which manufacture and distribute liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (included in SIC 33210, SIC 61410, SIC 62399 and SIC 63500);
- enterprises which are engaged in sanitation and other waste water treatment (included in SIC 94000); and
- enterprises which are involved in the collection, purification and distribution of water as a secondary activity or for own use.

1.3 Data items

The following categories of data items were collected: industrial classification, employment, trading income, inventories, expenditure, profit or loss, capital expenditure on new assets, details of purchases, details of services, client base, key statistics by province, and information and communication technology (ICT) usage.

1.4 Reference period

The questionnaires were completed for the financial year of the enterprise which ends on any date between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 according to the usual reporting schedule of the enterprise. The data for the number of employees were provided for employees who received salaries and wages for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2024.

1.5 Current prices

The rand values are at current prices.

1.6 Reliability of data

All estimates compiled for this industry are subject to non-sampling errors only, because a complete enumeration of enterprises contributing to the top 99% of the industry turnover was conducted. An adjustment factor was applied to compensate for the units contributing to the bottom 1% of industry turnover. The following are some of the likely sources of non-sampling errors: sampling frame not up to date, incorrect definitions and classifications, phrasing of questions, non-response, processing and estimation. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by the 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.

1.7 Confidentiality

According to Section 17 of the Statistics Act, 1999 as amended by the Statistics Amendment Act, 2024, completed questionnaires remain confidential to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Individual business information is never disclosed. Results are presented in aggregated form only.

2. Summary of findings

2.1 Income

Table A – Income by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2016–2024

Type of service	2016		2019		2021		2024	
	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	201 316	83,2	238 372	81,6	264 683	81,4	386 525	81,8
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	11 946	4,9	13 357	4,6	15 166	4,7	21 094	4,5
Collection, purification and distribution of water	28 711	11,9	40 279	13,8	45 179	13,9	64 576	13,7
Total	241 973	100,0	292 008	100,0	325 028	100,0	472 195	100,0

The total income for the electricity, gas and water supply industry in 2024 was R472,2 billion, representing an increase of 13,3% per annum compared with the income reported in the corresponding survey of 2021 (R325,0 billion). Comparing 2021 and 2024, large increases were reported for 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (+R121,8 billion) and 'collection, purification and distribution of water' (+R19,4 billion).

Between 2016 and 2024, 'collection, purification and distribution of water' gained the biggest percentage share (1,8 percentage points) in total income (from a percentage contribution of 11,9% in 2016 to 13,7% in 2024). 'Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' lost the biggest percentage share (-1,4 percentage points) over the same period (from 83,2% in 2016 to 81,8% in 2024).

Table B – Profit margin by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2016–2024

Type of service	Net profit/loss after tax				Turnover				Profit margin			
	2016	2019	2021	2024	2016	2019	2021	2024	2016	2019	2021	2024
	R million								%			
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	4 612	-21 516	-17 990	-57 191	194 396	231 138	255 437	373 472	2,4	-9,3	-7,0	-15,3
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	3 187	2 841	4 564	4 233	11 244	13 234	14 939	20 702	28,3	21,5	30,6	20,4
Collection, purification and distribution of water	4 364	7 610	7 018	8 603	26 807	37 860	41 798	56 515	16,3	20,1	16,8	15,2
Total	12 163	-11 065	-6 408	-44 355	232 447	282 232	312 174	450 689	5,2	-3,9	-2,1	-9,8

The total profit margin for the electricity, gas and water supply industry was -9,8% in 2024, the lowest since 2016. 'Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' had the lowest profit margin at -15,3%. 'Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains' had the highest profit margin at 20,4%.

2.2 Employment

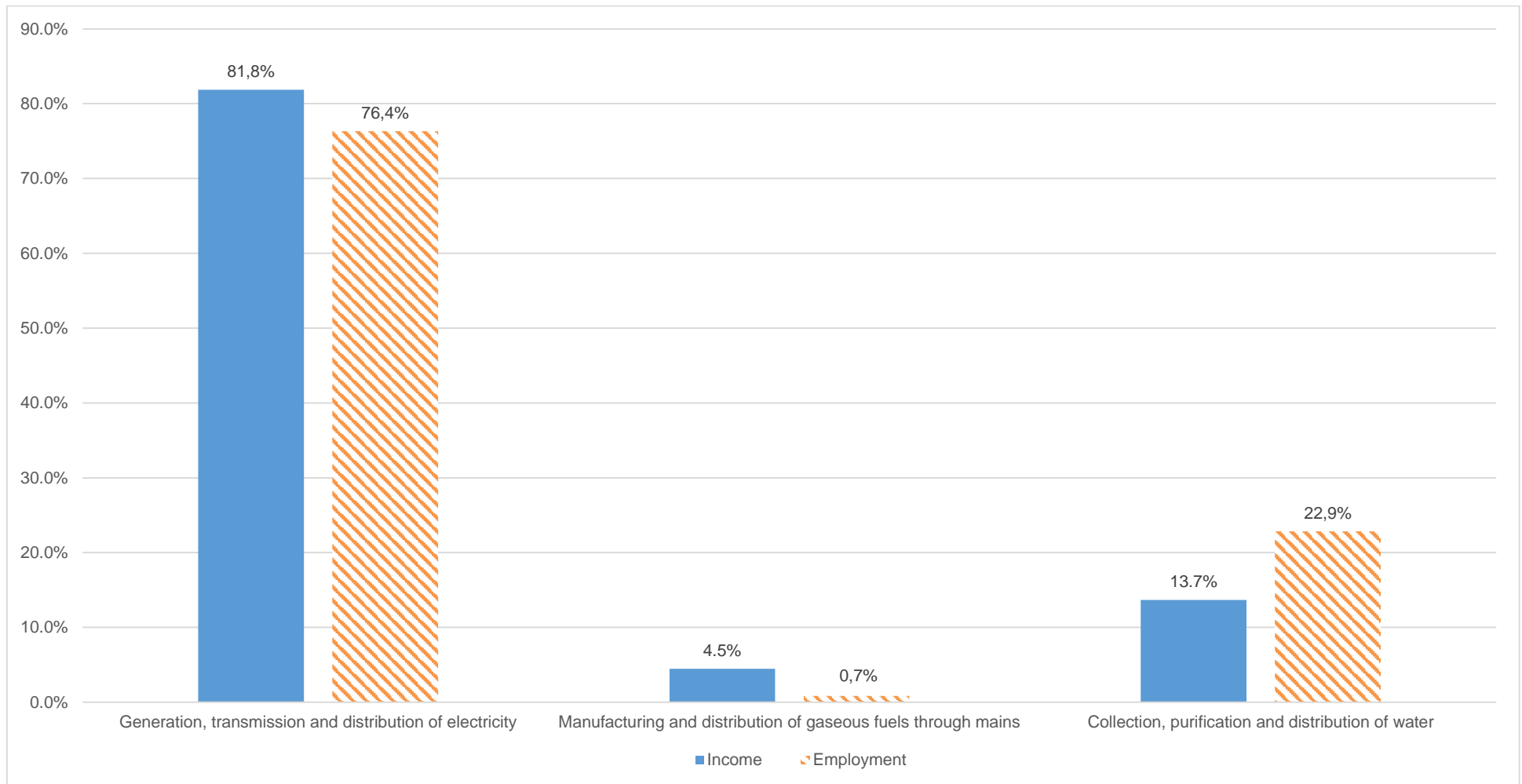
Table C – Employment by type of service as at the end of June in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2016–2024

Type of service	2016		2019		2021		2024	
	Number	% contribution	Number	% contribution	Number	% contribution	Number	% contribution
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	46 286	80,0	43 217	76,3	40 306	74,9	40 804	76,4
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	403	0,7	426	0,8	414	0,8	351	0,7
Collection, purification and distribution of water	11 194	19,3	12 978	22,9	13 065	24,3	12 199	22,9
Total	57 883	100,0	56 621	100,0	53 785	100,0	53 354	100,0

The total number of persons employed in the electricity, gas and water supply industry as at the end of June 2024 was 53 354. This represents a decrease of 0,3% per annum between 2021 and 2024. Over the same period, there was a decrease in employment of 866 in 'collection, purification and distribution of water'.

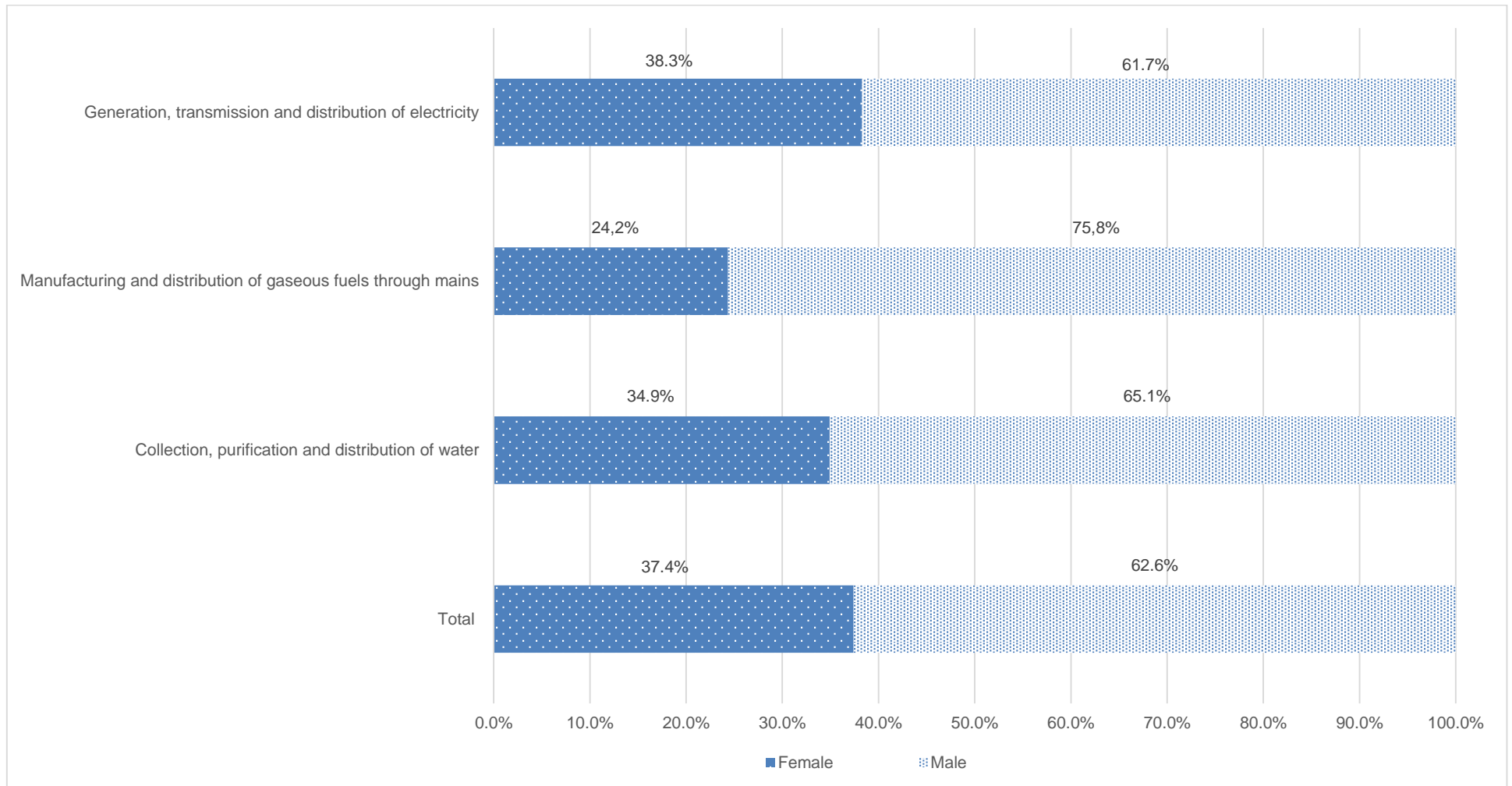
Formal employment in the electricity, gas and water supply industry decreased from 57 883 in 2016 to 53 354 in 2024 (a loss of 4 529 jobs). The biggest loss in persons employed over this period was in 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (-5 482). The only gain was in 'collection, purification and distribution of water' (+1 005).

Figure 1 – Percentage contribution of income and employment by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024



The type of service with the highest proportion of employment compared with its proportion of income was 'collection, purification and distribution of water' (contributing 22,9% to employment and 13,7% to income). 'Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains' had the highest proportion of income compared with its proportion of employment (contributing 4,5% to income and 0,7% to employment), followed by 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (contributing 81,8% and 76,4% respectively).

Figure 2 – Employment gender ratios by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024



The proportion of females out of the total persons employed in the electricity, gas and water supply industry in 2024 was 37,4%. The type of service with the highest proportion of females employed was 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (38,3%), followed by 'collection, purification and distribution of water' (34,9%). 'Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains' had the highest proportion of males employed (75,8%).

Table D – Average salaries and wages by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2016–2024

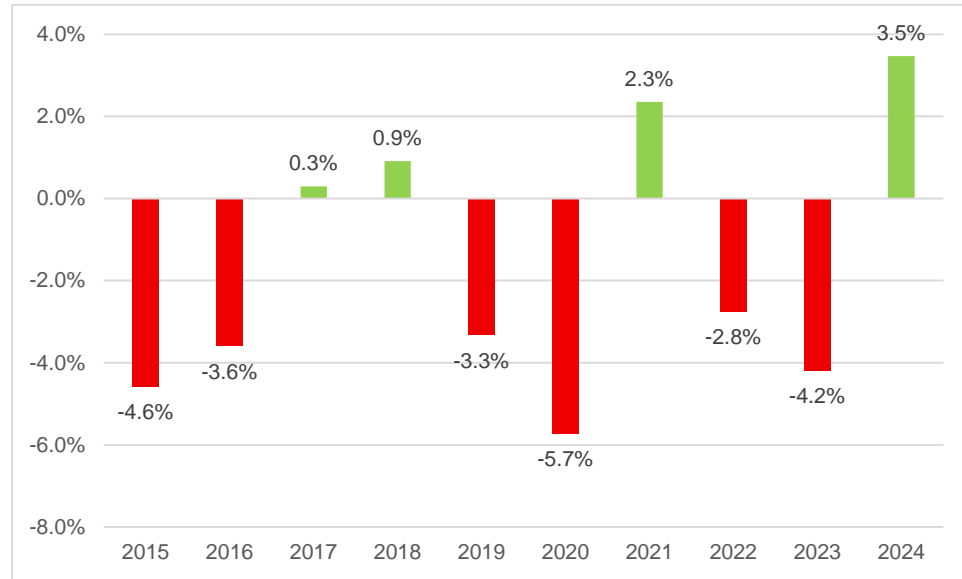
Type of service	2016			2019			2021			2024		
	Salaries and wages	Total employees	Average salaries and wages	Salaries and wages	Total employees	Average salaries and wages	Salaries and wages	Total employees	Average salaries and wages	Salaries and wages	Total employees	Average salaries and wages
	R million	Number	Rand	R million	Number	Rand	R million	Number	Rand	R million	Number	Rand
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	25 577	46 286	552 586	28 879	43 217	668 232	29 047	40 306	720 662	34 113	40 804	836 021
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	284	403	704 715	327	426	767 606	327	414	789 855	287	351	817 664
Collection, purification and distribution of water	4 096	11 194	365 910	5 006	12 978	385 730	6 665	13 065	510 142	8 677	12 199	711 288
Total	29 957	57 883	517 544	34 212	56 621	604 228	36 039	53 785	670 057	43 077	53 354	807 381

The average salaries and wages in the electricity, gas and water supply industry in 2024 was R807 381. The type of service with the highest average salaries and wages in 2024 was 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (R836 021), followed by 'manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains' (R817 664).

The total average salaries and wages increased from R517 544 in 2016 to R807 381 in 2024, an annualised growth rate of 5,7%. The type of service that had the highest annualised growth rate between 2016 and 2024 was 'collection, purification and distribution of water' (8,7%), followed by 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (5,3%).

2.3 Electricity, gas and water supply industry value added

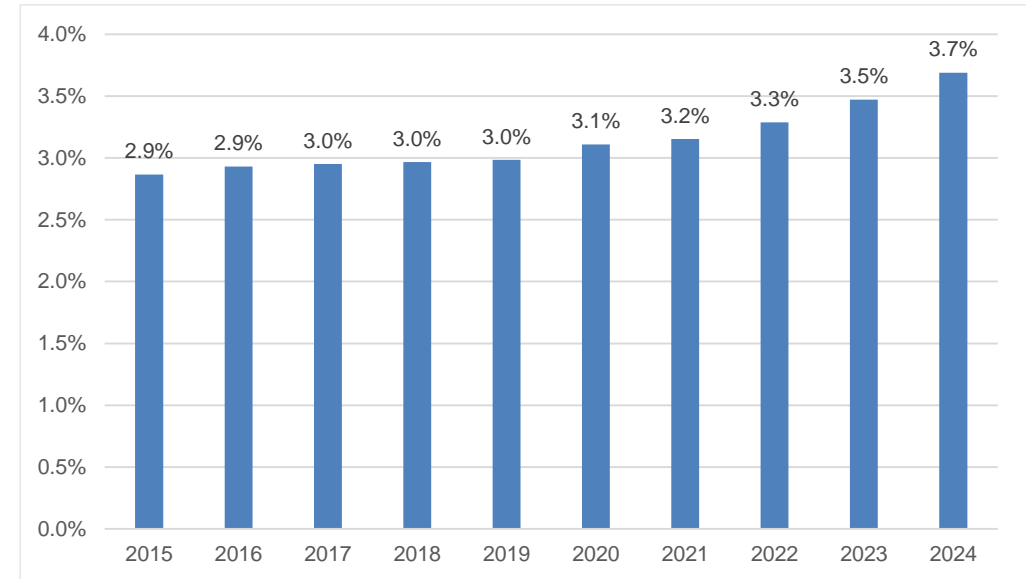
Figure 3 – Electricity, gas and water supply industry value added, annual percentage change (constant 2015 prices), 2015–2024



Source: P0441

The electricity, gas and water supply industry value added at constant 2015 prices decreased from R114,1 billion in 2015 to R100,0 billion in 2024. During this period, the largest annual decreases were recorded in 2020 (-5,7%), 2015 (-4,6%) and 2023 (-4,2%).

Figure 4 – Percentage contribution of the electricity, gas and water supply industry to total value added (current prices), 2015–2024



Source: P0441

Between 2015 and 2024, the contribution of the electricity, gas and water supply industry to total value added increased from 2,9% to 3,7%.

2.4 Capital expenditure on new assets

Table E – Capital expenditure on new assets by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2016–2024

Type of service	2016		2019		2021		2024	
	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution	R million	% contribution
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	67 898	90,4	43 341	89,5	32 433	85,1	43 116	85,0
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	116	0,2	221	0,5	166	0,4	139	0,3
Collection, purification and distribution of water	7 028	9,4	4 816	10,0	5 531	14,5	7 476	14,7
Total	75 042	100,0	48 378	100,0	38 130	100,0	50 731	100,0

The capital expenditure on new assets in 2024 (R50,7 billion) represents an increase of 10,0% per annum compared with the expenditure reported in the corresponding survey of 2021 (R38,1 billion). The largest increase was reported in 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (+R10,7 billion).

In 2024, the largest contributor to capital expenditure on new assets was 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (R43,1 billion or 85,0%), followed by 'collection, purification and distribution of water' (R7,5 billion or 14,7%).

Between 2016 and 2024, 'collection, purification and distribution of water' gained the biggest percentage share (+5,3 percentage points) in capital expenditure on new assets (from a percentage contribution of 9,4% in 2016 to 14,7% in 2024). 'Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' lost the biggest percentage share (-5,4 percentage points) over the same period (from 90,4% in 2016 to 85,0% in 2024).

2.5 Electricity generated

Table F – Electricity generated by source in the ‘generation, transmission and distribution of electricity’ industry, 2016–2024

Source of electricity	2016		2019		2021		2024	
	Gigawatt-hours (GWh)	% contribution	Gigawatt-hours (GWh)	% contribution	Gigawatt-hours (GWh)	% contribution	Gigawatt-hours (GWh)	% contribution
Coal	212 761	89,8	213 506	88,1	195 138	86,5	177 334	82,7
Nuclear material	12 305	5,2	11 686	4,8	9 983	4,4	8 226	3,8
Diesel	4 108	1,7	1 208	0,5	2 131	0,9	5 182	2,4
Renewable energy sources (water, wind and sun)	5 060	2,1	11 278	4,7	13 784	6,1	19 408	9,0
Electricity generated from pump storage stations	2 934	1,2	4 629	1,9	4 797	2,1	4 412	2,1
Total electricity generated	237 168	100,0	242 307	100,0	225 833	100,0	214 562	100,0

The total electricity generated in 2024 was 214 562 gigawatt-hours (GWh). This represents a decrease of 1,7% per annum compared with the electricity generated in the corresponding survey of 2021 (225 833 GWh). The main contributor to total electricity generated was ‘coal’ (82,7% or 177 334 GWh), followed by ‘renewable energy sources’ (9,0% or 19 408 GWh) and ‘nuclear material’ (3,8% or 8 226 GWh).

Between 2016 and 2024, ‘coal’ lost the biggest percentage share (-7,1 percentage points) in electricity generated (from a percentage contribution of 89,8% in 2016 to 82,7% in 2024). ‘Renewable energy sources’ gained the biggest percentage share (+6,9 percentage points) over the same period (from 2,1% in 2016 to 9,0% in 2024).


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3. Tables

Table 1 – Principal statistics by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Type of service	Total income			Total value of opening inventory			Total value of closing inventory		
	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million			R million			R million		
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	264 683	386 525	13,5	33 931	37 028	3,0	37 810	42 482	4,0
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	15 166	21 094	11,6	130	115	-3,9	115	132	4,7
Collection, purification and distribution of water	45 179	64 576	12,6	760	589	-8,1	527	672	8,4
Total	325 028	472 195	13,3	34 821	37 732	2,7	38 452	43 286	4,0

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 1 – Principal statistics by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024 (concluded)

Type of service	Total expenditure			Net profit before tax		Total employees		
	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million			R million		Number		
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	292 452	418 370	12,7	-23 891	-26 390	40 306	40 804	0,4
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	8 797	15 293	20,2	6 355	5 817	414	351	-5,3
Collection, purification and distribution of water	37 851	55 970	13,9	7 095	8 689	13 065	12 199	-2,3
Total	339 100	489 633	13,0	-10 441	-11 884	53 785	53 354	-0,3

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 2 – Principal statistics by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024²

Type of service	Total income	Total value of opening inventory	Total value of closing inventory	Total expenditure	Net profit before tax	Total capital expenditure on new assets	Total employees
	R million						Number
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	386 525	37 028	42 482	418 370	-26 390	43 116	40 804
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	21 094	115	132	15 293	5 817	139	351
Collection, purification and distribution of water	64 576	589	672	55 970	8 689	7 476	12 199
Total	472 195	37 732	43 286	489 633	-11 884	50 731	53 354

² Preliminary figures.**Table 3 – Type of income in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024**

Type of income	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Sales of goods	10	8	0,0	0,0	-7,2
Services rendered	311 941	450 445	96,0	95,4	13,0
Government subsidies	2 160	4 818	0,7	1,0	30,7
Interest	3 498	9 127	1,1	1,9	37,7
Other income	7 418	7 796	2,3	1,7	1,7
Total	325 028	472 195	100,0	100,0	13,3

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 4 – Income by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024²

Type of service	Sales of goods and services rendered	Government subsidies	Interest received	Insurance	Rental, leasing and hiring income	Other income	Total income
	R million						
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	373 260	2 730	4 312	1 374	213	4 636	386 525
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	20 702	0	384	0	0	8	21 094
Collection, purification and distribution of water	56 491	2 088	4 431	65	23	1 478	64 576
Total	450 453	4 818	9 127	1 439	236	6 122	472 195

² Preliminary figures.

Table 5 – Type of expenditure in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Type of expenditure	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Purchases	151 751	238 468	44,8	48,7	16,3
Salaries and wages	36 039	43 077	10,6	8,8	6,1
Subcontractors and labour brokers	10 541	13 291	3,1	2,7	8,0
Depreciation and amortisation	35 228	47 232	10,4	9,6	10,3
Interest (finance cost)	46 846	64 153	13,8	13,1	11,0
Losses on financial and other assets	9 667	13 094	2,9	2,7	10,6
Insurance	4 900	6 890	1,4	1,4	12,0
Repairs and maintenance	20 222	34 147	6,0	7,0	19,1
Other expenditure	23 906	29 281	7,0	6,0	7,0
Total	339 100	489 633	100,0	100,0	13,0

¹ Revised figures.

² Preliminary figures.

Table 6 – Expenditure by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024²

Type of service	Purchases	Salaries and wages	Subcontractors and labour brokers	Depreciation and amortisation	Interest (finance cost)
	R million				
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	201 611	34 113	6 756	44 399	63 049
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	9 998	287	4 027	234	97
Collection, purification and distribution of water	26 859	8 677	2 508	2 599	1 007
Total	238 468	43 077	13 291	47 232	64 153

² Preliminary figures.**Table 6 – Expenditure by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024² (concluded)**

Type of service	Losses on financial and other assets	Repairs and maintenance	Insurance	Other expenditure	Total
	R million				
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	5 346	32 743	6 558	23 795	418 370
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	35	82	19	514	15 293
Collection, purification and distribution of water	7 713	1 322	313	4 972	55 970
Total	13 094	34 147	6 890	29 281	489 633

² Preliminary figures.

Table 7– Capital expenditure on new assets by type of asset in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Type of asset	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Land, buildings and construction works	3 066	403	8,0	0,8	-49,2
Plant, machinery and equipment	3 619	4 167	9,5	8,2	4,8
Work in progress (property, plant and equipment)	30 595	44 113	80,3	87,0	13,0
Other capital expenditure	850	2 048	2,2	4,0	34,1
Capital expenditure on assets	38 130	50 731	100,0	100,0	10,0

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.**Table 8 – Capital expenditure on new assets by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024²**

Type of service	Land, buildings and construction works	Plant, machinery and equipment	Work in progress (property, plant and equipment)	Other capital expenditure	Total capital expenditure on assets
	R million				
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	269	3 505	38 817	525	43 116
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	2	53	77	7	139
Collection, purification and distribution of water	132	609	5 219	1 516	7 476
Total	403	4 167	44 113	2 048	50 731

² Preliminary figures.

Table 9 – Employment by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry as at the end of June, 2021 and 2024

Type of service	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	Number		% contribution		
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	40 306	40 804	74,9	76,4	0,4
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	414	351	0,8	0,7	-5,3
Collection, purification and distribution of water	13 065	12 199	24,3	22,9	-2,3
Total	53 785	53 354	100,0	100,0	-0,3

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.**Table 10 – Type of employment in the electricity, gas and water supply industry as at the end of June, 2021 and 2024**

Type of employment	Gender	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
		Number		% contribution		
Full time	Female	17 858	19 745	33,2	37,0	3,4
	Male	33 729	32 803	62,7	61,5	-0,9
	Total	51 587	52 548	95,9	98,5	0,6
Part time	Female	830	220	1,5	0,4	-35,8
	Male	1 368	586	2,6	1,1	-24,6
	Total	2 198	806	4,1	1,5	-28,4
Total	Female	18 688	19 965	34,7	37,4	2,2
	Male	35 097	33 389	65,3	62,6	-1,6
	Total	53 785	53 354	100,0	100,0	-0,3

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 11 – Type of employment by type of service and gender in the electricity, gas and water supply industry as at the end of June 2024²

Type of service	Full time			Part time			Total
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	
	Number						
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	15 607	25 177	40 784	14	6	20	40 804
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	84	246	330	1	20	21	351
Collection, purification and distribution of water	4 054	7 380	11 434	205	560	765	12 199
Total	19 745	32 803	52 548	220	586	806	53 354

² Preliminary figures.

Table 12 – Electricity generated and available for distribution by source in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Source of electricity	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	Gigawatt-hours (GWh)		
Coal	195 138	177 335	-3,1
Nuclear material	9 983	8 226	-6,2
Diesel	2 131	5 182	34,5
Water (hydroelectricity)	1 593	1 812	4,4
Wind	6 512	10 450	17,1
Sun (solar electricity)	5 679	7 145	8,0
Electricity generated from pump storage stations	4 797	4 412	-2,7
Total electricity generated	225 833	214 562	-1,7
Electricity supplied from other countries (imports)	8 883	9 200	1,2
Electricity consumed in power stations and pump storage systems	7 319	6 317	-4,8
Electricity supplied to other countries (exports)	13 629	10 455	-8,5
Total electricity available for distribution³	213 768	206 990	-1,1

¹ Revised figures.

² Preliminary figures.

³ Electricity available for distribution = Total electricity generated + Electricity supplied from other countries (imports) - Electricity consumed in power stations and pump storage systems - Electricity supplied to other countries (exports).

Table 13 – Electricity distributed by type of customer in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Type of customer ⁴	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Redistributors ⁵ (mainly municipalities)	107 854	161 931	42,5	44,1	14,5
Residential, including prepaid revenue	24 577	29 935	9,7	8,1	6,8
Commercial	18 963	24 935	7,5	6,8	9,6
Industrial	47 123	73 027	18,6	19,8	15,7
Mining	31 036	48 109	12,2	13,1	15,7
Agriculture	10 408	13 925	4,1	3,8	10,2
Railway electric traction	3 001	3 849	1,2	1,0	8,7
International (exported)	10 467	11 500	4,1	3,1	3,2
Other type of customer	336	738	0,1	0,2	30,0
Total electricity distributed	253 765	367 949	100,0	100,0	13,2

¹ Revised figures.

² Preliminary figures.

⁴ Eskom's classification was used to define customer types.

⁵ Electricity redistributors are enterprises that buy electricity from generators for re-sale and they are mainly municipalities.

Table 14 – Type of purchases for ‘generation, transmission and distribution of electricity’ in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Type of purchase	Unit	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	Quantity		R million				
Water	m ³ (000)	290 925	275 539	-1,8	2 970	3 322	3,8
Coal	Metric tons	111 423 225	108 680 679	-0,8	63 097	74 691	5,8
Diesel	Litres	616 958 029	1 500 494 540	34,5	5 677	34 605	82,7
Fuel oil					3 298	8 997	39,7
Electricity					51 102	77 211	14,7
Other inputs ⁶ , purchases ⁷ and transfers-in					1 690	2 785	18,1
Total purchases					127 834	201 611	16,4

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.⁶ Other inputs include nuclear material, natural gas and liquid petroleum fuel products.⁷ Other purchases include chemicals, environmental levy and other purchases.**Table 15 – Type of gas distributed in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024**

Type of gas ⁸	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	Gigajoules (GJ)			R million		
Natural gas	160 523 360	163 865 610	0,7	13 126	18 103	11,3
Methane-rich gas	20 702 479	24 319 711	5,5	1 600	2 295	12,8
Synthetic gas	570 732	737 631	8,9	36	53	13,8
Total gas distributed	181 796 571	188 922 952	1,3	14 762	20 451	11,5

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.⁸ Gas refers to gaseous fuels distributed through mains or pipeline networks and includes natural gas, methane-rich gas and synthetic gas.

Table 16 – Purchases for ‘manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains’ by type of gas in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Type of gas	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	Gigajoules (GJ)			R million		
Purchases of gas in South Africa						
Natural gas	6 728 000	7 210 492	2,3	491	773	16,3
Methane-rich gas	20 486 309	24 538 789	6,2	634	1 646	37,4
Synthetic gas	571 202	744 010	9,2	72	117	17,6
Total purchases of gas in South Africa	27 785 511	32 493 291	5,4	1 197	2 536	28,4
Natural gas imported	155 132 395	159 986 417	1,0	3 215	7 462	32,4
Total purchases	182 917 906	192 479 708	1,7	4 412	9 998	31,4

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.**Table 17 – Sales for ‘collection, purification and distribution of water’ by type of customer in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024**

Type of customer	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Redistributors ⁹ (mainly municipalities)	25 009	32 849	70,3	71,1	9,5
Households	4 823	6 544	13,6	14,1	10,7
Commercial users	2 719	3 214	7,7	6,9	5,7
Industry	519	298	1,5	0,6	-16,9
Mining	930	1 322	2,6	2,9	12,4
Agricultural users (farmers)	852	889	2,4	1,9	1,4
Other customers	666	1 164	1,9	2,5	20,4
Total sales of water	35 518	46 280	100,0	100,0	9,2

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.⁹ Water redistributors are water service providers and water boards which buy water from other water boards for redistribution when they cannot meet their own demand, and companies contracted by municipalities to supply water on their behalf.

Table 18 – Purchases for 'collection, purification and distribution of water' by type of input in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Type of input	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Fuel	110	173	0,6	0,6	16,3
Bulk/ raw water	13 953	18 478	71,5	68,9	9,8
Electricity	4 547	6 655	23,3	24,8	13,5
Water treatment chemicals	698	1 216	3,6	4,5	20,3
Parts and spares	8	5	0,0	0,0	-14,5
Other purchases and transfers-in	190	332	1,0	1,2	20,3
Total purchases and transfers-in of goods	19 506	26 859	100,0	100,0	11,3

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.**Table 19 – Income from sales of goods and services rendered by province in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024**

Province	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Western Cape	30 735	37 734	9,9	8,4	7,1
Eastern Cape	15 434	26 080	4,9	5,8	19,1
Northern Cape	13 443	29 131	4,3	6,5	29,4
Free State	17 728	23 798	5,7	5,3	10,3
KwaZulu-Natal	39 682	59 580	12,7	13,2	14,5
North West	22 554	36 155	7,2	8,0	17,0
Gauteng	126 349	168 466	40,6	37,4	10,1
Mpumalanga	24 990	37 002	8,0	8,2	14,0
Limpopo	21 036	32 507	6,7	7,2	15,6
Total	311 951	450 453	100,0	100,0	13,0

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 20 – Salaries and wages by province in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2021 and 2024

Province	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	R million		% contribution		
Western Cape	3 296	3 781	9,1	8,8	4,7
Eastern Cape	1 523	1 742	4,2	4,0	4,6
Northern Cape	650	940	1,8	2,2	13,1
Free State	2 517	3 015	7,0	7,0	6,2
KwaZulu-Natal	2 957	3 305	8,2	7,7	3,8
North West	1 469	1 775	4,1	4,1	6,5
Gauteng	13 663	16 467	37,9	38,2	6,4
Mpumalanga	7 789	9 503	21,6	22,1	6,9
Limpopo	2 175	2 549	6,0	5,9	5,4
Total	36 039	43 077	100,0	100,0	6,1

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.**Table 21 – Employment by province in the electricity, gas and water supply industry as at the end of June, 2021 and 2024**

Province	2021 ¹	2024 ²	2021 ¹	2024 ²	Annualised % change
	Number		% contribution		
Western Cape	4 308	4 246	8,0	8,0	-0,5
Eastern Cape	2 671	2 837	5,0	5,3	2,0
Northern Cape	1 134	1 630	2,1	3,1	12,9
Free State	4 368	4 213	8,1	7,9	-1,2
KwaZulu-Natal	5 240	4 631	9,7	8,7	-4,0
North West	2 444	2 359	4,5	4,4	-1,2
Gauteng	19 731	19 596	36,8	36,7	-0,2
Mpumalanga	9 726	9 924	18,1	18,6	0,7
Limpopo	4 163	3 918	7,7	7,3	-2,0
Total	53 785	53 354	100,0	100,0	-0,3

¹ Revised figures.² Preliminary figures.

Table 22 – Information and communication technology (ICT) usage by type of service in the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024

Type of service	Use computer	Use internet banking	Virtual teams, remote working, tele-community	VoIP (i.e. Skype, WhatsApp calling)	Receive orders through the internet	Place orders through the internet	IT outsourced	Invest in ICT
	%							
Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity	98,9	93,7	76,1	42,6	8,1	9,1	44,9	21,8
Manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	100,0	50,0	50,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	50,0	50,0
Collection, purification and distribution of water	89,5	86,6	58,4	28,2	22,9	22,9	47,4	22,9
Total	96,5	91,1	71,0	38,2	11,9	12,6	45,6	22,5

Explanatory notes

Background

The results presented in this publication have been derived from the 2024 electricity, gas and water supply industry large sample survey. This is a periodic survey which measures economic activity in the electricity, gas and water supply industry of the South African economy. This survey is based on a complete enumeration of private and public enterprises contributing to the top 99% of the industry turnover and adjustment factors were applied to compensate for the units contributing to the bottom 1% of industry turnover.

The survey was conducted from Stats SA's Statistical Business Register (SBR), augmented by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) register. The SBR is based mainly on the value-added tax (VAT) database of the South African Revenue Service (SARS). Enterprises are legally bound to register for VAT. Companies with generating capacity of more than 100 MW are required to register as per the Amended Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act 4 of 2006 on 5 October 2021.

Value-added tax (VAT)

All figures exclude VAT.

Reference period

The information was collected from enterprises for their financial year which ended on any date between 01 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.

Purpose of the survey

Results of the survey are mainly used within Stats SA for benchmarking the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components. These statistics are also used by government to make decisions on industry policies and plans, and in monitoring the performance and contribution of individual industries to the South African economy. The private sector uses the data to analyse comparative business and industry performance.

Classification by industry

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. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (five-digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to an industry, which reflects its predominant activity.

Statistical unit

The statistical unit for sampling 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 activities.

Survey methodology and design

The survey was conducted mainly by email, telephone and personal visits.

The top 99% units by turnover were completely enumerated and a raising factor was used to account for the bottom 1% of the turnover removed from the sampling frame. Turnover as recorded on the SBR was used as the measure of size for stratification.

Size groups

The enterprises are divided into four size groups according to the value of turnover on the SBR. Large enterprises are those with an annual turnover of R306 million and above. Table 23 presents the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) cut-off points adjusted by a factor of 8,0.

Table 23 – Size groups for the electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2024

Size group	Turnover
Large	Turnover \geq R306 000 000
Medium	R78 000 000 \leq Turnover < R306 000 000
Small	R30 600 000 \leq Turnover < R78 000 000
Micro	Turnover < R30 600 000

Collection rate	Collection rate = ((collected + finalised investigations)/ sample size) x 100. The collection rate was 83,1%.																												
Turnover collection rate	Turnover collection rate = ((weighted collected enterprises SBR turnover + weighted finalised investigations SBR turnover)/ population turnover) x 100. The turnover collection rate was 98,4%.																												
Revisions to previous results	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Figures for 2024 are preliminary and subject to revision.																												
Abbreviations	<table> <tr> <td>DTIC</td> <td>Department of Trade, Industry and Competition</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GDP</td> <td>Gross domestic product</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GJ</td> <td>Gigajoules</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GWh</td> <td>Gigawatt-hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GJ</td> <td>Gigajoules</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISIC</td> <td>International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>m³</td> <td>Cubic metre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SARS</td> <td>South African Revenue Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SBR</td> <td>Statistical Business Register</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SI</td> <td>International System of Units</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIC</td> <td>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SNA</td> <td>System of National Accounts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stats SA</td> <td>Statistics South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAT</td> <td>Value-added tax</td> </tr> </table>	DTIC	Department of Trade, Industry and Competition	GDP	Gross domestic product	GJ	Gigajoules	GWh	Gigawatt-hours	GJ	Gigajoules	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities	m ³	Cubic metre	SARS	South African Revenue Service	SBR	Statistical Business Register	SI	International System of Units	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities	SNA	System of National Accounts	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa	VAT	Value-added tax
DTIC	Department of Trade, Industry and Competition																												
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SI	International System of Units																												
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities																												
SNA	System of National Accounts																												
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa																												
VAT	Value-added tax																												
Non-sampling errors	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. 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.																												
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.																												

Glossary

Commercial customers (users)	Include business enterprises in wholesale trade, retail trade, motor trade, repairs of motor vehicles, motor cycles, personal and household goods, hotels and restaurants, transport, storage and communication and financial intermediation, insurance, real estate and business services.
Collection, purification and distribution of water	Collection, purification and distribution of water includes the collection, purification and distribution of water not elsewhere classified.
Employees	Persons employed by a business or organisation and who received payment (in salaries, wages, commission, piece rates or payments in kind) for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June of a year.
Enterprise	A legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities.
Full-time employees	Full-time employees are those (permanent, temporary or casual) who normally work the agreed hours i.e. 40 hours or more per week.
Gas	Gas is gaseous fuels distributed through mains or pipeline networks and includes natural gas, methane-rich gas and synthetic gas.
Industrial customers (users) and industry	Industrial customers or users are business enterprises which are involved in the manufacturing or production of goods as a predominant activity. An industry consists of a group of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts</i> (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.
Net profit or loss after tax	Total income plus closing value of inventories minus total expenditure minus opening value of inventories minus company tax.
Other expenditure	Other expenditure includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administration and management fees; • customs duties; • excise duties; • motor vehicle running expenditure; • project costs; • railage and transport-out; • rental and leasing of land, buildings and other structures; • security services; • severance, termination and redundancy payments; • telecommunication services, including information technology; • travelling and subsistence; and • other.

Other income	Other income includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customs duties • excise duties; and • other.
Part-time employees	Part-time employees are those (permanent, temporary or casual) who usually work less than 40 hours per week.
Profit margin	Profit margin is derived as: Net profit or loss after tax divided by turnover multiplied by 100.
Rental, leasing and hiring income	Rental, leasing and hiring income includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leasing and hiring of motor vehicles and other transport equipment; • leasing and hiring of plant, machinery, equipment and vehicles; • rental of land, buildings and other structures; and • other rental, leasing and hiring income.
Stratum	A stratum is constructed by concatenating the SIC classification and size group variables.
Turnover	Turnover includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the value of sales; • amounts received for services rendered; • rent and/or lease payments received for land and buildings; and • rent, leasing and hiring received for machinery, vehicles and other equipment.
Total electricity available for distribution	Electricity available for distribution includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • total electricity generated; • plus electricity supplied from other countries (imports); • minus electricity consumed in power stations and pump storage systems; and • minus electricity supplied to other countries (exports).
Unit of electricity	A 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. A gigawatt-hour is also equal to one thousand megawatt hours.
Unit of gas	A 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	A cubic metre (m^3) 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 is the kilolitre.
Water redistributors	Water redistributors are water service providers including municipalities and water boards which buy water from other water boards for redistribution when they cannot meet their own demand, and companies contracted by municipalities to supply water on their behalf.