

Generation and consumption of electricity

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CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY IS LEVELLING OFF

The consumption of electricity in South Africa showed a slight increase of 0,4% after seasonal adjustment between the third and fourth quarters of 1998. After the significant increase of 4,8% in the consumption of electricity between 1996 and 1997, consumption of electricity for the year 1998 was nearly on the same level as for the year 1997 (187 514 Gigawatt-hours in 1998 compared with 187 507 Gigawatt-hours in 1997).

The consumption of electricity after seasonal adjustment increased slightly during the first six months of 1998 while it decreased during the second half of the year. Local production of electricity decreased by 2,4% (-4 988 Gigawatt-hours) from 1997 to 1998, owing to the importation of more electricity from neighbouring countries (2 367 Gigawatt-hours).

From the beginning of 1998 sales of electricity to countries outside the borders of South Africa decreased, reflecting a total decrease of 31,5% (-2 083 Gigawatt-hours) for 1998 compared with the sales for 1997. The production of electricity reflected a decrease of 2,4% for 1998 compared with 1997 after reflecting an increase of 5,1% between 1996 and 1997.

SUMMARY - ELECTRICITY CONSUMED IN SOUTH AFRICA

| Period | | Gigawatt-hours | Percentage change |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Actual | | | |
| Oct. 1998 | - Dec. 1998 | 45 654 | -1,0 |
| Oct. 1997 | - Dec. 1997 | 46 118 | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------|--------|
| Seasonally adjusted | | | |
| Oct. 1998 | - | Dec. 1998 | 46 790 |
| Jul. 1998 | - | Sept. 1998 | 46 587 |
| | | | +0,4 |

NOTE

This statistical release contains estimates of the total number of units of electricity consumed (as indicated by electricity available for distribution) in the Republic of South Africa (including the former TBVC states). Electricity available for distribution is measured before allowing for transmission losses.

Information regarding the number of units of electricity produced, the number of units consumed in power stations, electricity purchased and sold outside South Africa are also published in this statistical release.

According to international practice, production indices are arithmetically converted to base 1995=100.

In order to improve timeliness, some information for the current month may have been estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised as soon as new information becomes available.

Stats SA has adopted the confidential pre-release policy in respect of selected economic indicators and specific government departments. The policy accords with practice among leading statistical agencies. The statistical integrity of the indices and strict observance of the release time has been assured by the following procedure:

In respect of this statistical release, an official representative from the Office of the President, the Deputy President, the Department of Finance, the South African Reserve Bank and the Department of Trade and Industry will receive a copy of the release on a strictly confidential basis two hours in advance of the public issue.

The Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za.

**TABLE 1.1 - ELECTRICITY CONSUMED IN SOUTH AFRICA 1/
HISTORICAL TABLE**

Gigawatt-hours

| Month | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ACTUAL FIGURES | | | | | | |
| J | 12 762 | 13 176 | 13 782 | 14 155 | 15 009 | 15 403 |
| F | 11 802 | 12 294 | 12 858 | 13 710 | 14 088 | 14 459 |
| M | 13 232 | 13 593 | 14 145 | 14 361 | 15 155 | 15 714 |
| A | 12 578 | 12 723 | 13 350 | 14 006 | 15 247 | 14 923 |
| M | 13 430 | 13 892 | 14 687 | 15 315 | 16 423 | 16 261 |
| J | 14 084 | 14 629 | 14 998 | 15 325 | 16 474 | 16 280 |
| J | 14 519 | 15 255 | 15 440 | 16 862 | 17 187 | 16 867 |
| A | 14 194 | 14 893 | 14 994 | 16 151 | 16 303 | 16 417 |
| S | 13 374 | 13 719 | 13 939 | 14 698 | 15 503 | 15 536 |
| O | 13 480 | 14 018 | 14 306 | 15 356 | 16 005 | 15 957 |
| N | 13 091 | 13 752 | 14 070 | 14 792 | 15 235 | 15 135 |
| D | 12 813 | 13 366 | 13 534 | 14 207 | 14 878 | 14 562 |
| YEAR | 159 359 | 165 310 | 170 103 | 178 938 | 187 507 | 187 514 |
| SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES | | | | | | |
| J | 13 062 | 13 491 | 14 096 | 14 447 | 15 267 | 15 716 |
| F | 13 059 | 13 569 | 14 155 | 15 072 | 15 475 | 15 864 |
| M | 13 266 | 13 634 | 14 220 | 14 449 | 15 274 | 15 884 |
| A | 13 305 | 13 455 | 14 115 | 14 776 | 16 070 | 15 712 |
| M | 13 130 | 13 544 | 14 268 | 14 770 | 15 788 | 15 619 |
| J | 13 285 | 13 780 | 14 144 | 14 480 | 15 611 | 15 442 |
| J | 13 224 | 13 896 | 14 074 | 15 393 | 15 712 | 15 434 |
| A | 13 238 | 13 932 | 14 061 | 15 174 | 15 330 | 15 489 |
| S | 13 541 | 13 892 | 14 116 | 14 870 | 15 662 | 15 664 |
| O | 13 294 | 13 863 | 14 153 | 15 176 | 15 783 | 15 692 |
| N | 13 408 | 14 074 | 14 408 | 15 167 | 15 639 | 15 539 |
| D | 13 580 | 14 175 | 14 394 | 15 137 | 15 892 | 15 559 |

**TABLE 1.2 - INDICES OF ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION
HISTORICAL TABLE**

Base : 1995=100

| Month | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ACTUAL INDICES | | | | | | |
| J | 90,2 | 92,7 | 97,5 | 100,6 | 108,3 | 109,6 |
| F | 83,0 | 86,7 | 90,7 | 98,5 | 101,5 | 102,8 |
| M | 92,9 | 96,1 | 99,8 | 103,6 | 109,5 | 110,6 |
| A | 88,4 | 90,1 | 93,9 | 100,5 | 109,6 | 105,5 |
| M | 94,7 | 98,5 | 102,6 | 109,9 | 117,8 | 115,4 |
| J | 99,7 | 103,2 | 105,2 | 110,1 | 118,3 | 115,4 |
| J | 102,3 | 107,5 | 108,7 | 121,1 | 124,1 | 119,9 |
| A | 100,2 | 105,2 | 105,6 | 115,8 | 118,0 | 111,9 |
| S | 94,6 | 97,2 | 98,5 | 105,7 | 112,9 | 109,1 |
| O | 95,1 | 99,4 | 101,4 | 110,7 | 115,8 | 112,6 |
| N | 92,2 | 97,2 | 99,9 | 107,3 | 110,0 | 106,2 |
| D | 89,9 | 94,5 | 96,2 | 102,7 | 106,7 | 101,3 |
| YEAR | 93,6 | 97,4 | 100,0 | 107,2 | 112,7 | 110,0 |
| SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDICES | | | | | | |
| J | 92,5 | 95,0 | 99,8 | 102,9 | 110,9 | 112,2 |
| F | 91,6 | 95,5 | 99,6 | 107,9 | 111,1 | 112,5 |
| M | 93,2 | 96,4 | 100,2 | 104,3 | 110,5 | 111,8 |
| A | 93,5 | 95,2 | 99,2 | 106,1 | 115,7 | 111,2 |
| M | 92,6 | 96,0 | 99,6 | 106,2 | 113,5 | 111,0 |
| J | 94,1 | 97,4 | 99,4 | 104,3 | 112,3 | 109,7 |
| J | 93,4 | 98,1 | 99,2 | 110,5 | 113,3 | 109,5 |
| A | 93,5 | 98,5 | 99,1 | 109,0 | 111,2 | 105,5 |
| S | 95,5 | 98,1 | 99,4 | 106,6 | 113,7 | 109,8 |
| O | 93,7 | 98,2 | 100,1 | 109,0 | 113,7 | 110,4 |
| N | 94,2 | 99,3 | 102,1 | 109,7 | 112,5 | 108,7 |
| D | 95,2 | 100,1 | 102,1 | 109,1 | 113,7 | 108,1 |

1/ As indicated by electricity available for distribution

* Revised

TABLE 2
ELECTRICITY - PRODUCED, CONSUMED IN POWER STATIONS, PURCHASED AND SOLD OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA
AND CONSUMED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Gigawatt-hours

| DESCRIPTION | December | November | December | January - December |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|
| | 1998 | 1997 | 1998 | 1997 |
| | | | | |

| TOTAL - ALL PRODUCERS | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| ELECTRICITY PRODUCED | | | | | |
| Actual figures | 15 763 | 16 523 | 16 600 | 205 374 | 210 362 |
| Seasonally adjusted figures | 16 820 | 16 927 | 17 685 | - | - |
| PURCHASED OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA | | | | | |
| | 212 | 273 | - | 2 375 | 8 |
| CONSUMED IN POWER STATIONS AND AUXILIARY SYSTEMS | | | | | |
| | 1 110 | 1 197 | 1 243 | 15 705 | 16 248 |
| SOLD OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA | | | | | |
| | 303 | 465 | 479 | 4 532 | 6 615 |
| ELECTRICITY CONSUMED IN SOUTH AFRICA 1/ | | | | | |
| Actual figures | 14 562 | 15 135 | 14 878 | 187 514 | 187 507 |
| Seasonally adjusted figures | 15 559 | 15 539 | 15 892 | - | - |

| ESKOM | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| ELECTRICITY PRODUCED | | | | | |
| Actual figures | 14 898 | 15 624 | 15 681 | 193 662 | 198 708 |
| Seasonally adjusted figures | 15 877 | 16 012 | 16 686 | - | - |
| PURCHASED OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA | | | | | |
| | 212 | 273 | - | 2 375 | 8 |
| CONSUMED IN POWER STATIONS AND AUXILIARY SYSTEMS | | | | | |
| | 1 020 | 1 088 | 1 153 | 14 394 | 15 071 |
| SOLD OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA | | | | | |
| | 303 | 465 | 479 | 4 532 | 6 615 |
| ELECTRICITY CONSUMED IN SOUTH AFRICA 1/ | | | | | |
| Actual figures | 13 787 | 14 344 | 14 049 | 177 111 | 177 030 |
| Seasonally adjusted figures | 14 721 | 14 735 | 14 999 | - | - |

1/ As indicated by electricity available for distribution
* Revised