

Statistical release

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Electricity generated and available for distribution (preliminary)

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: ELECTRICITY GENERATED AND AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION (MARCH 2007)

Key findings

Consumption of electricity increases

The estimated consumption of electricity in March 2007 increased by 6,7% (+1 234 Gigawatt-hours) compared with March 2006 while in 2006, the increase was reported at 2,7% for the same period (see tables 2 and 9a). The estimated volume of electricity consumed (available for distribution) for the three months ending March 2007 increased by 5,6% (+3 096 Gigawatt-hours) compared with the March 2006 quarter (see table C). Electricity consumption after seasonal adjustment for March 2007 increased by 1,5% compared with February 2007 (see tables A and 3).

Production of electricity increases

The estimated production of electricity in March 2007 increased by 4,4% (+917 Gigawatt-hours) compared with March 2006 (see tables A and 9a). Electricity production by Eskom increased by 4,3% (+883 Gigawatt-hours) in March 2007 compared with March 2006 (see table 9a). The estimated production of electricity for the first quarter of 2007 increased by 4,0% (+2 436 Gigawatt-hours) compared with the first quarter of 2006 (see table C). Furthermore, the estimated production of electricity, after seasonal adjustment, increased by 1,1% for March 2007 compared to the previous month (see table A).

Distribution of electricity by Eskom to the provinces increases

Consumption of electricity in the provinces do not all follow the same trend of increase as depicted for South Africa. Increases for the first quarter of 2007 compared to first quarter of 2006 were reported for Eastern Cape (+25,4% or +472 Gigawatt-hours), Northern Cape (+18,9% or +212 Gigawatt-hours), Gauteng (+9,1% or +1 201 Gigawatt-hours), North West (+8,5% or +515 Gigawatt-hours), Mpumalanga (+8,1% or +618 Gigawatt-hours), the Western Cape (+6,6% or +356 Gigawatt-hours) and Free State (5,4% or +118 Gigawatt-hours). However, less electricity was distributed to KwaZulu-Natal (-2,3% or -251 Gigawatt-hours) and Limpopo province (-1,6% or -44 Gigawatt-hours) (see table 10).

Key figures

Table A - Selected key figures regarding electricity generated and available for distribution for March 2007

Estimates	March 2007 1/	% change between March 2006 and March 2007	% change between January to March 2006 and January to March 2007
Electricity available for distribution (Gigawatt-hours)	20 250	+6,7	+5,6
Index of the physical volume of electricity production (2005=100)	107,8	+4,4	+4,0

1/ Preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2007	% change between February and March 2007	% change between October to December 2006 and January to March 2007
Electricity available for distribution (Gigawatt-hours)	20 121	+1,5	+2,0
Index of the physical volume of electricity production (2005=100)	107,3	+1,1	+1,6

Table B - Percentage change in the seasonally adjusted quantity of electricity generated and available for distribution between the current quarter and the previous quarter

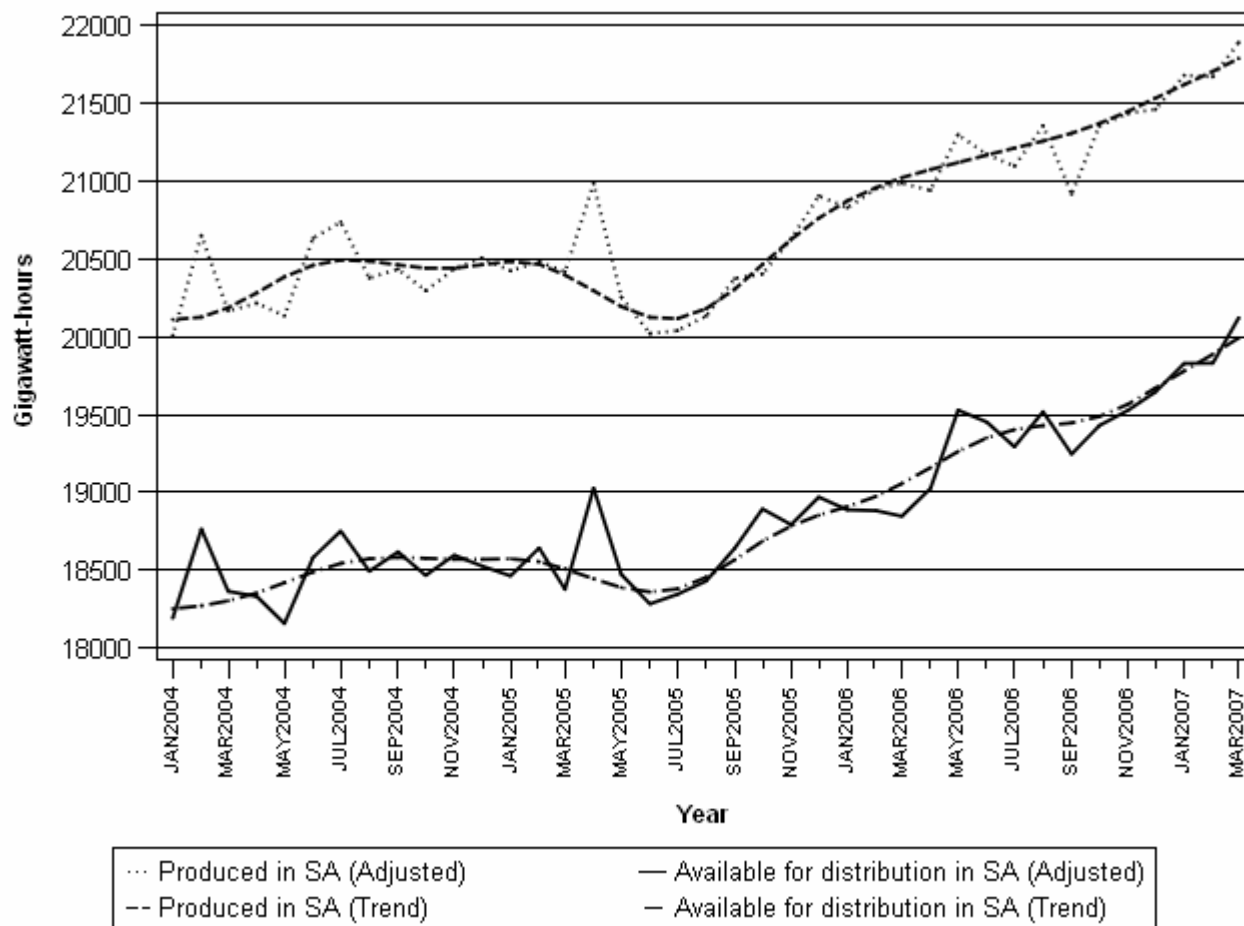
Gigawatt-hours	Seasonally adjusted quantity October to December 2006	Seasonally adjusted quantity January to March 2007	% change between October to December 2006 and January to March 2007	Quantity difference between October to December 2006 and January to March 2007
Electricity produced	+64 247	+65 236	+1,5	+989
Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	+58 602	+59 779	+2,0	+1 177

Table C - Percentage change between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year

Gigawatt-hours	Actual quantity January to March 2006	Actual quantity January to March 2007	% change between January to March 2006 and January to March 2007	Quantity difference between January to March 2006 and January to March 2007
Electricity produced	60 620	63 056	+4,0	+2 436
Purchased outside South Africa (import)	2 099	2 995	+42,7	+896
Consumed in Power stations and auxiliary systems	4 503	4 662	+3,5	+159
Sold outside South Africa (export)	3 235	3 312	+2,4	+77
Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	54 981	58 077	+5,6	+3 096

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for electricity produced and available for distribution in South Africa between January 2004 and March 2007. There was a gradual upward movement in the trend cycles from the beginning of the period until July 2004. From July 2004 up until March 2005 the trend cycles moved sideways, followed by a declining trend in both electricity production and consumption between March and July of 2005. From August 2005 to March 2007 the trends moved upwards.

Figure 1 - Electricity produced and available for distribution in South Africa from 2004 to 2007



P J Lehohla
Statistician-General

Detailed results: Tables

Table 1 - Total volume of electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2002 to 2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	16 191	17 095	17 850	18 149	18 603	19 543
February	15 215	16 168	17 277	17 169	17 396	18 284
March	16 552	17 655	18 476	18 487	18 982	1/ 20 250
April	16 362	16 905	17 524	18 133	18 122	
May	17 852	18 159	18 909	19 224	20 312	
June	18 017	18 330	19 337	18 983	20 166	
July	18 956	19 183	20 156	19 657	20 632	
August	18 064	18 714	19 265	19 191	20 307	
September	17 125	17 526	18 362	18 384	18 987	
October	17 741	18 480	18 714	19 127	19 663	
November	17 233	17 790	18 314	18 523	19 244	
December	16 712	17 456	17 754	18 230	18 897	
Year	206 020	213 461	221 938	223 257	231 311	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 2 - Percentage change in electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2002 to 2007

	Percentage					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	+0,8	+5,6	+4,4	+1,7	+2,5	+5,1
February	+2,3	+6,3	+6,9	-0,6	+1,3	+5,1
March	+1,4	+6,7	+4,7	+0,1	+2,7	+6,7
April	+5,5	+3,3	+3,7	+3,5	-0,1	
May	+5,5	+1,7	+4,1	+1,7	+5,7	
June	+7,3	+1,7	+5,5	-1,8	+6,2	
July	+5,2	+1,2	+5,1	-2,5	+5,0	
August	+4,4	+3,6	+2,9	-0,4	+5,8	
September	+5,2	+2,3	+4,8	+0,1	+3,3	
October	+5,6	+4,2	+1,3	+2,2	+2,8	
November	+8,0	+3,2	+2,9	+1,1	+3,9	
December	+9,8	+4,5	+1,7	+2,7	+3,7	
Year	+5,1	+3,6	+4,0	+0,6	+3,6	

Table 3 - Seasonally adjusted total volume of electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2002 to 2007

	Gigawatt-hours						% change between current and previous month
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
January	16 518	17 436	18 194	18 464	18 888	19 828	+0,9
February	16 565	17 608	18 764	18 643	18 883	19 830	+0,0
March	16 441	17 559	18 365	18 378	18 847	20 121	+1,5
April	17 067	17 680	18 332	19 027	19 025		
May	17 157	17 445	18 158	18 473	19 528		
June	17 310	17 603	18 582	18 284	19 452		
July	17 607	17 831	18 752	18 346	19 293		
August	17 288	17 942	18 494	18 431	19 518		
September	17 317	17 781	18 618	18 642	19 246		
October	17 457	18 230	18 467	18 894	19 429		
November	17 503	18 075	18 597	18 793	19 527		
December	17 614	18 321	18 527	18 970	19 646		

Table 4 - Indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2002 to 2007

	Base : 2005=100					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	84,7	89,6	95,5	97,6	99,8	103,9
February	79,0	84,7	92,2	91,7	94,0	97,2
March	85,7	92,9	98,7	100,2	103,3	1/ 107,8
April	85,1	90,1	94,7	98,1	98,0	
May	94,1	97,2	102,4	102,9	108,1	
June	94,8	98,5	105,0	101,6	107,3	
July	99,4	102,5	109,5	105,5	110,8	
August	94,5	102,4	104,3	103,0	109,1	
September	90,3	97,0	99,5	99,1	101,8	
October	94,3	102,2	102,1	102,5	107,2	
November	91,5	96,4	98,5	99,4	103,3	
December	87,4	94,0	96,0	98,2	100,9	
Year	90,1	95,6	99,9	100,0	103,6	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 5 - Percentage change in indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2002 to 2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	-0,1	+5,8	+6,6	+2,2	+2,3	+4,1
February	+1,9	+7,2	+8,9	-0,5	+2,5	+3,4
March	+1,2	+8,4	+6,2	+1,5	+3,1	+4,4
April	+5,7	+5,9	+5,1	+3,6	-0,1	
May	+6,2	+3,3	+5,3	+0,5	+5,1	
June	+9,0	+3,9	+6,6	-3,2	+5,6	
July	+4,0	+3,1	+6,8	-3,7	+5,0	
August	+1,7	+8,4	+1,9	-1,2	+5,9	
September	+4,5	+7,4	+2,6	-0,4	+2,7	
October	+6,7	+8,4	-0,1	+0,4	+4,6	
November	+9,2	+5,4	+2,2	+0,9	+3,9	
December	+10,4	+7,6	+2,1	+2,3	+2,7	
Year	+5,0	+6,2	+4,4	+0,1	+3,7	

The percentage change is the change in the index of the physical volume of electricity production of the relevant year compared with the index of the physical volume of electricity production of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Table 6 - Seasonally adjusted indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2002 to 2007

	Base : 2005=100						% change between current and previous month
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
January	86,8	92,0	98,1	100,2	102,3	106,4	+1,2
February	86,8	93,0	101,1	100,3	102,7	106,1	-0,3
March	85,8	93,1	98,8	99,9	102,9	107,3	+1,1
April	89,3	94,4	99,1	102,8	102,8		
May	90,6	93,6	98,7	99,3	104,4		
June	90,9	94,5	100,9	97,8	103,4		
July	91,8	94,8	101,6	98,2	103,3		
August	90,1	97,9	99,8	98,7	104,5		
September	90,7	97,6	100,2	99,9	102,6		
October	91,7	99,4	99,4	100,0	104,6		
November	93,0	97,9	100,1	101,0	105,0		
December	92,6	99,0	100,5	102,4	105,1		

Table 7 - Total volume of electricity imported: 2002 to 2007

Month	Gigawatt-hours					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	670	705	828	729	872	1 086
February	643	637	811	714	646	939
March	783	706	863	533	581	1/ 970
April	733	547	641	598	587	
May	658	569	547	849	879	
June	704	518	560	813	881	
July	702	792	607	856	926	
August	721	424	618	883	930	
September	637	266	590	686	971	
October	454	272	536	836	682	
November	477	583	746	865	862	
December	691	720	679	837	965	
Year	7 873	6 739	8 026	9 199	9 782	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 8 - Total volume of electricity exported: 2002 to 2007

Month	Gigawatt-hours					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	558	578	1 037	1 030	1 056	1 133
February	478	508	977	901	1 050	1 060
March	529	607	1 027	968	1 129	1/ 1 119
April	525	619	951	991	1 017	
May	578	805	944	1 083	1 046	
June	601	798	1 057	1 096	1 102	
July	614	944	1 140	1 102	1 239	
August	605	1 030	1 049	1 144	1 262	
September	628	1 051	1 048	1 134	1 239	
October	626	1 116	1 112	1 161	1 311	
November	600	1 025	1 082	1 119	1 186	
December	608	1 055	1 029	1 155	1 129	
Year	6 950	10 136	12 453	12 884	13 766	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 9a - Electricity produced and consumed in power stations, purchased and sold outside South Africa and available for distribution in South Africa

		Gigawatt-hours				
		March 2006	February 2007	March 2007	% Change between March 2006 and March 2007	Difference between March 2006 and March 2007
Total - All producers	Electricity produced	21 077	19 847	21 994	+4,4	+917
	Purchased outside South Africa (import)	581	939	970	+67,0	+389
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 548	1 442	1 595	+3,0	+47
	Sold outside South Africa (export)	1 129	1 060	1 119	-0,9	-10
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	18 982	18 284	20 250	+6,7	+1 268
ESKOM	Electricity produced	20 304	19 139	21 187	+4,3	+883
	Purchased outside South Africa (import)	581	939	970	+67,0	+389
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 469	1 374	1 516	+3,2	+47
	Sold outside South Africa (export)	1 129	1 060	1 119	-0,9	-10
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	18 288	17 645	19 522	+6,7	+1 234

Table 9b - Electricity produced and consumed in power stations, purchased and sold outside South Africa and available for distribution in South Africa (concluded)

		Gigawatt-hours			
		January to March 2006	January to March 2007	% Change between January to March 2006 and January to March 2007	Difference between January to March 2006 and January to March 2007
Total - All producers	Electricity produced	60 620	63 056	+4,0	+2 436
	Purchased outside South Africa (import)	2 099	2 995	+42,7	+896
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 503	4 662	+3,5	+159
	Sold outside South Africa (export)	3 235	3 312	+2,4	+77
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	54 981	58 077	+5,6	+3 096
ESKOM	Electricity produced	58 265	60 739	+4,2	+2 474
	Purchased outside South Africa (import)	2 099	2 995	+42,7	+896
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 262	4 422	+3,8	+160
	Sold outside South Africa (export)	3 235	3 312	+2,4	+77
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	52 868	56 000	+5,9	+3 132

Table 10 - Electricity distributed by Eskom by province for 2006 and 2007 1/

		Gigawatt-hours									
		Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	Total South Africa
2006	January	1 852	626	388	712	3 611	2 073	4 442	2 635	904	17 242
	February	1 703	595	339	721	3 410	1 934	4 129	2 343	1 023	16 197
	March	1 879	639	394	740	3 747	2 019	4 690	2 684	890	17 682
	April	1 809	591	357	730	3 572	1 904	4 514	2 550	874	16 901
	May	1 906	665	374	809	3 826	2 082	5 525	2 784	955	18 925
	June	1 832	670	363	732	3 870	2 093	5 476	2 648	964	18 647
	July	1 946	788	399	810	3 657	2 151	5 707	2 661	998	19 116
	August	1 939	780	391	826	3 563	2 103	5 605	2 560	1 000	18 767
	September	1 828	753	409	736	3 456	1 963	4 963	2 487	993	17 588
	October	1 909	769	435	786	3 590	2 079	5 045	2 644	1 037	18 294
	November	1 867	745	439	762	3 443	1 982	4 965	2 687	958	17 848
	December	1 912	640	439	777	3 429	2 036	4 667	2 705	924	17 529
	Year	22 382	8 261	4 727	9 141	43 174	24 419	59 728	31 388	11 520	214 736
	Year to date	5 434	1 860	1 121	2 173	10 768	6 026	13 261	7 662	2 817	51 121
2007	January	1 955	770	456	780	3 541	2 168	4 809	2 835	930	18 244
	February	1 817	746	410	718	3 326	2 074	4 583	2 561	878	17 113
	March 2/	2 018	816	467	793	3 650	2 299	5 070	2 884	965	18 962
	Year to date	5 790	2 332	1 333	2 291	10 517	6 541	14 462	8 280	2 773	54 319

1/ Wholesale energy as delivered by Eskom to the various provinces.

2/ Preliminary.

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly sample survey of the electricity industry covering electricity undertakings and establishments (branches). This statistical release contains information regarding the number of electricity units generated and available for distribution in South Africa, the number of units purchased and sold outside South Africa and the number of units distributed by Eskom by province on a monthly basis. Both actual and seasonally adjusted figures are published.
	2	This statistical release reflects indices of the physical volume of electricity production on the basis of 2005=100. In accordance with international practice, the indices have to be rebased every five years to a new base year.
	3	In order to improve timeliness of the publication, some information for the current month may have been estimated due to late submission by respondents. These estimates will be revised in the next statistical release(s) as soon as actual information is available.
Purpose of the survey	4	The results of the monthly electricity generated and available for distribution 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	5	This survey covers electricity undertakings and establishments conducting activities concerned with the generation or transmission and distribution of electricity, including electrical power installations, which, as subsidiary divisions of undertakings, produce electricity for regular use by these undertakings.
Classification	6	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry, which reflects the predominant activity of the electricity undertaking or establishment.
Response rate	7	The response rate for the survey on electricity generated and available for distribution for March 2007 was 100%.
Statistical unit	8	The basic statistical unit for the collection of information is the electricity undertaking or establishment. The electricity undertaking or establishment is the smallest economic unit that functions as a separate entity. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry (see paragraph 5).
Survey methodology and design	9	All statistical units are stratified by type of economic activity according to the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> and measure of size, where measure of size is the volume of electricity generated by the electricity undertaking or establishment. All large undertakings or establishments (size category one cases) are completely enumerated. A sample is drawn from medium and small size undertakings and establishments by systematically selecting undertakings or establishments within each size category. An electricity undertaking or establishment with a total generating capacity of less than 500 kilowatt is excluded from the sample.
	10	The survey is conducted by mail each month collecting information from a sample of 22 electricity undertakings or establishments.

Monthly production indices	11	The calculation of the monthly production indices is based on the number of electricity units produced.
Benchmarking	12	The index of physical volume of electricity production should provide an accurate reflection of the trend of activities of the relevant industry. The level of activities as measured by the monthly electricity generated and available for distribution survey is based on information received from a sample of electricity undertakings and establishments, which are weighted according to the original sample, designed in order to represent the population of electricity undertakings and establishments. It is necessary to adjust the level of activities as measured by the monthly sample survey to the level of activities as measured periodically by the Census of electricity, gas and steam. This procedure, whereby the latest results of an economic census are used to compile more accurate level estimates for a certain year, is known as benchmarking.
	13	The results of the 1995 Census of electricity, gas and steam served as benchmarks to verify or adjust the level of the monthly physical volume of electricity production indices collected through the monthly sample survey. The level adjustments were done on the volume indices for July of the relevant census year (the 1995 census year covered the period 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1995 and therefore, the benchmarking was done using the index of July 1995 as reference point).
Seasonal adjustment	14	Seasonally adjusted estimates of all items are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by US Bureau of the Census Economic Research and Analyses Division, 1968. 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 behavior.
Trend cycle	15	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates.
Related publications	16	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bulletin of Statistics.</i> • <i>SA Statistics.</i>
Unpublished statistics	17	In some cases Stats SA can also make available statistics, which are not published. The statistics can be made available as computer printouts, on diskette or CD. Generally a charge is made for providing unpublished statistics.
Rounding-off figures	18	The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded off to the nearest digit shown. There may, therefore, be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.
Pre-release policy	19	Stats SA pre-release policy may be inspected at its website, www.statssa.gov.za .

Glossary

Electricity undertaking	An electricity undertaking is an undertaking concerned with the generation or transmission and distribution of electricity, including electrical power installations, which as subsidiary divisions of undertakings produce electricity for regular use by these undertakings.	
Index of physical volume of electricity production	A statistical measure of the change in the volume of production of electricity in a given period and the volume of production of electricity in the base period. The base period is 2005. The production in the base period is set at 100.	
Industry	An industry consists of a group of undertakings or establishments engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the 1993 <i>System of National Accounts (1993 SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02.	
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
	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	*	Revised figures

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email: gerdab@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
nicolaic@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
distribution@statssa.gov.za (orders)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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