

Statistical release

P4141

Electricity generated and available for distribution (Preliminary)

March 2012

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Results for March 2012

Table A – Selected key figures regarding electricity generated and available for distribution

Actual estimates	March 2012 1/	% change between March 2011 and March 2012	% change between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012
Electricity available for distribution (Gigawatt-hours)	19 623	-4,4	-0,9
Index of the physical volume of electricity production (2005=100)	105,2	-3,7	-0,7

1/ Preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2012	% change between February and March 2012	% change between October to December 2011 and January to March 2012
Electricity available for distribution (Gigawatt-hours)	19 467	-2,1	-1,1
Index of the physical volume of electricity production (2005=100)	104,6	-1,5	-1,0

Consumption of electricity

Seasonally adjusted electricity consumption decreased by 1,1% for the first quarter of 2012 compared with the fourth quarter of 2011. A month-on-month decrease of 2,1% was recorded for March 2012, following a month-on-month decrease of 1,4% in February 2012.

In March 2012, the actual volume of electricity consumption recorded a year-on-year decrease of 4,4%.

Production of electricity

Seasonally adjusted electricity production decreased by 1,0% for the first quarter of 2012 compared with the fourth quarter of 2011. A month-on-month decrease of 1,5% was recorded in March 2012, following a month-on-month decrease of 1,3% in February 2012.

In March 2012, actual estimated electricity production recorded a year-on-year decrease of 3,7%.

Electricity delivered by Eskom to the provinces

The total volume of electricity delivered by Eskom to the provinces decreased by 4,0% between March 2011 and March 2012. Decreases were reported in seven of the nine provinces, with the largest percentage decrease recorded for Free State (-11,1%), followed by Kwazulu-Natal (-9,6%), Limpopo (-5,9%) and North West (-5,7%).

Table B – Comparison of the seasonally adjusted volume of electricity generated and available for distribution between the first quarter of 2012 and the previous quarter

Gigawatt-hours	Seasonally adjusted quantity October to December 2011	Seasonally adjusted quantity January to March 2012	% change between October to December 2011 and January to March 2012	Quantity difference between October to December 2011 and January to March 2012
Electricity produced	65 643	64 993	-1,0	-650
Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	60 157	59 505	-1,1	-652

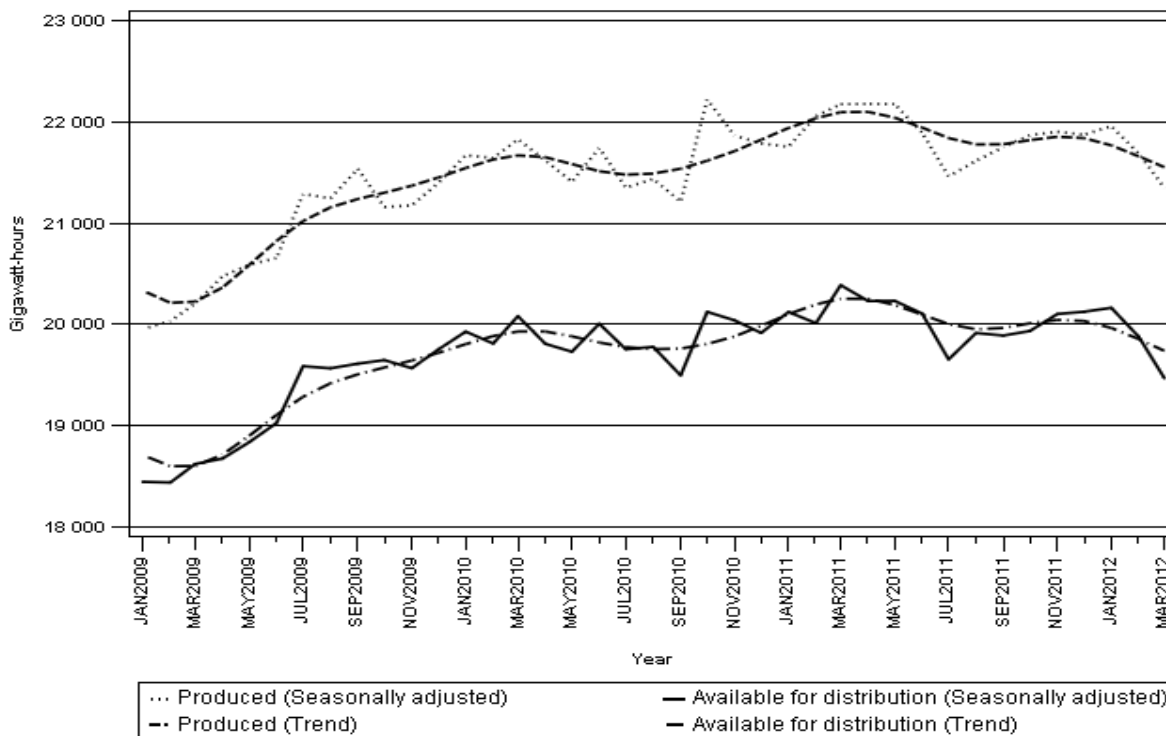
Table C – Comparison of actual estimates between the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011

Gigawatt-hours	Actual volume January to March 2011	Actual volume January to March 2012	% change between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012	Quantity difference between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012
Electricity produced	63 702	63 233	-0,7	-469
Purchased outside South Africa (import) 1/	2 930	3 093	5,6	163
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 561	4 546	-0,3	-15
Sold outside South Africa (export) 2/	3 481	3 701	6,3	220
Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	58 589	58 078	-0,9	-511

1/ Physical energy flowing into South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.

2/ Physical energy flowing out of South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.

Figure 1 – Electricity produced and available for distribution in South Africa, seasonally adjusted and trend



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Total volume of electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2007–2012

Month	Gigawatt-hours					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	19 561	19 256	17 919	19 396	19 616	19 676
February	18 301	18 668	16 757	18 181	18 455	18 779
March	20 160	19 603	18 694	20 186	20 518	1/ 19 623
April	18 982	19 127	17 934	19 102	19 539	
May	20 901	20 365	19 548	20 435	20 938	
June	21 020	20 515	19 819	20 800	20 914	
July	21 780	21 610	21 151	21 307	21 162	
August	21 353	20 736	20 398	20 540	20 617	
September	19 732	19 725	19 382	19 256	19 619	
October	20 435	20 138	19 899	20 371	20 198	
November	19 785	18 640	19 248	19 702	19 763	
December	19 160	17 541	18 850	18 996	19 189	
Year	241 170	235 924	229 599	238 272	240 528	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 2 – Annual percentage change in electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2007–2012

Month	Percentage change 2/					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	5,1	-1,6	-6,9	8,2	1,1	0,3
February	5,2	2,0	-10,2	8,5	1,5	1,8
March	6,2	-2,8	-4,6	8,0	1,6	-4,4
April	4,7	0,8	-6,2	6,5	2,3	
May	2,9	-2,6	-4,0	4,5	2,5	
June	4,2	-2,4	-3,4	4,9	0,5	
July	5,6	-0,8	-2,1	0,7	-0,7	
August	5,2	-2,9	-1,6	0,7	0,4	
September	3,9	-0,0	-1,7	-0,7	1,9	
October	3,9	-1,5	-1,2	2,4	-0,8	
November	2,8	-5,8	3,3	2,4	0,3	
December	1,3	-8,4	7,5	0,8	1,0	
Year	4,3	-2,2	-2,7	3,8	0,9	

2/ The annual percentage change is the change in the volume of electricity available for distribution of the relevant month of the current year compared with the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted total volume of electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2007–2012

Month	Gigawatt-hours						% change between current and previous month
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
January	20 047	19 773	18 442	19 927	20 121	20 162	0,2
February	19 945	19 959	18 435	19 809	20 010	19 876	-1,4
March	20 126	19 548	18 618	20 080	20 386	19 467	-2,1
April	19 794	19 903	18 672	19 806	20 229		
May	20 149	19 626	18 833	19 728	20 231		
June	20 257	19 742	19 023	20 005	20 105		
July	20 296	20 067	19 585	19 752	19 652		
August	20 461	19 853	19 564	19 776	19 913		
September	19 957	19 951	19 610	19 494	19 888		
October	20 148	19 878	19 645	20 122	19 933		
November	20 084	18 952	19 565	20 038	20 101		
December	20 000	18 406	19 750	19 914	20 123		

Table 4 – Indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2007–2012

Month	Base: 2005=100					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	103,9	105,3	95,0	103,4	104,0	105,2
February	97,2	99,7	88,5	96,5	98,9	99,4
March	107,8	105,6	99,3	107,4	109,2	1/ 105,2
April	100,9	102,0	96,1	102,0	104,8	
May	111,9	109,6	104,5	108,5	112,2	
June	112,5	108,8	104,8	110,1	110,8	
July	116,6	115,1	112,8	113,0	113,2	
August	114,1	110,3	108,8	109,4	110,0	
September	105,5	104,8	104,4	102,8	105,3	
October	109,1	109,4	105,6	110,8	109,2	
November	106,9	101,4	102,6	105,9	106,1	
December	104,6	93,6	100,3	102,1	102,4	
Year	107,6	105,5	101,9	106,0	107,2	

1/ Preliminary.

Table 5 – Annual percentage change in indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2007–2012

Month	Percentage change 2/					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	4,1	1,3	-9,8	8,8	0,6	1,2
February	3,4	2,6	-11,2	9,0	2,5	0,5
March	4,4	-2,0	-6,0	8,2	1,7	-3,7
April	3,0	1,1	-5,8	6,1	2,7	
May	3,5	-2,1	-4,7	3,8	3,4	
June	4,8	-3,3	-3,7	5,1	0,6	
July	5,2	-1,3	-2,0	0,2	0,2	
August	4,6	-3,3	-1,4	0,6	0,5	
September	3,6	-0,7	-0,4	-1,5	2,4	
October	1,8	0,3	-3,5	4,9	-1,4	
November	3,5	-5,1	1,2	3,2	0,2	
December	3,7	-10,5	7,2	1,8	0,3	
Year	3,8	-2,0	-3,4	4,0	1,1	

2/ The annual percentage change is the change in the index of the physical volume of electricity production of the relevant month of the current year compared with the corresponding month of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2007–2012

Month	Base: 2005=100						% change between current and previous month
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
January	106,5	108,0	97,7	106,1	106,6	107,6	0,5
February	106,6	107,3	98,1	106,0	108,0	106,2	-1,3
March	107,6	105,3	99,0	106,9	108,6	104,6	-1,5
April	105,4	106,3	100,3	105,9	108,6		
May	108,2	105,8	100,8	104,9	108,6		
June	108,9	105,2	101,2	106,5	107,2		
July	108,4	106,6	104,3	104,6	105,1		
August	108,9	105,2	104,1	105,0	105,9		
September	106,5	105,9	105,5	103,9	106,5		
October	107,1	107,5	103,6	108,8	107,1		
November	108,2	102,7	103,7	107,1	107,3		
December	108,8	97,9	104,8	106,7	107,1		

Table 7 – Total volume of electricity imported: 2007–2012 1/

Month	Gigawatt-hours					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	1 088	638	1 102	1 122	1 088	1 085
February	942	885	999	995	730	1 063
March	973	802	1 064	1 040	1 112	2/ 945
April	1 055	844	906	931	912	
May	900	761	937	1 074	907	
June	880	1 002	1 088	1 019	1 009	
July	984	1 089	1 040	1 117	979	
August	1 045	1 076	1 072	1 109	1 108	
September	1 026	1 044	920	1 068	974	
October	1 040	645	1 115	770	911	
November	796	711	940	1 018	1 073	
December	619	1 075	1 112	930	1 087	
Year	11 348	10 572	12 295	12 193	11 890	

1/ Physical energy flowing into South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.

2/ Preliminary.

Table 8 – Total volume of electricity exported: 2007–2012 1/

Month	Gigawatt-hours					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	1 134	1 280	1 096	1 217	1 133	1 247
February	1 060	1 101	979	1 128	1 069	1 212
March	1 231	1 136	1 100	1 252	1 279	2/ 1 242
April	1 132	998	1 086	1 170	1 190	
May	1 203	1 120	1 109	1 177	1 241	
June	1 256	1 162	1 175	1 132	1 174	
July	1 301	1 249	1 223	1 206	1 247	
August	1 252	1 220	1 235	1 275	1 298	
September	1 186	1 203	1 285	1 248	1 288	
October	1 252	1 258	1 288	1 338	1 378	
November	1 256	1 252	1 213	1 316	1 381	
December	1 233	1 189	1 263	1 209	1 286	
Year	14 496	14 168	14 052	14 668	14 964	

1/ Physical energy flowing out of South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.

2/ Preliminary.

Table 9a – Electricity produced and consumed in power stations, purchased and sold outside South Africa and available for distribution in South Africa (monthly figures)

		Gigawatt-hours				
		March 2011	February 2012	March 2012 1/	% change between March 2011 and March 2012	Difference between March 2011 and March 2012
Total - All producers	Electricity produced	22 287	20 292	21 479	-3,7	-808
	Purchased outside South Africa (import) 2/	1 112	1 063	945	-15,0	-167
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 601	1 363	1 559	-2,6	-42
	Sold outside South Africa (export) 3/	1 279	1 212	1 242	-2,9	-37
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	20 518	18 779	19 623	-4,4	-895
ESKOM	Electricity produced	21 379	19 410	20 605	-3,6	-774
	Purchased outside South Africa (import) 2/	1 112	1 063	945	-15,0	-167
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 537	1 286	1 488	-3,2	-49
	Sold outside South Africa (export) 3/	1 279	1 212	1 242	-2,9	-37
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	19 675	17 975	18 820	-4,3	-855

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Physical energy flowing into South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.

3/ Physical energy flowing out of South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.

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

		Gigawatt-hours			
		January to March 2011	January to March 2012 1/	% change between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012	Difference between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012
Total - All producers	Electricity produced	63 702	63 233	-0,7	-469
	Purchased outside South Africa (import) 2/	2 930	3 093	5,6	163
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 561	4 546	-0,3	-15
	Sold outside South Africa (export) 3/	3 481	3 701	6,3	220
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	58 589	58 078	-0,9	-511
ESKOM	Electricity produced	61 132	60 627	-0,8	-505
	Purchased outside South Africa (import) 2/	2 930	3 093	5,6	163
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 352	4 314	-0,9	-38
	Sold outside South Africa (export) 3/	3 481	3 701	6,3	220
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	56 228	55 704	-0,9	-524

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Physical energy flowing into South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.

3/ Physical energy flowing out of South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.

Table 10 – Total volume of electricity delivered by Eskom to provinces for 2011 and 2012

Period		Gigawatt-hours 1/									
		Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	Total South Africa
2011	January	1 962	777	408	721	3 417	2 187	4 738	3 052	1 021	18 283
	February	1 881	734	372	665	3 256	2 044	4 394	2 808	937	17 091
	March	2 031	773	417	774	3 631	2 292	4 955	3 017	1 063	18 953
	April	1 877	726	389	753	3 432	2 159	5 016	2 946	992	18 290
	May	1 980	811	406	772	3 624	2 283	5 435	3 106	1 000	19 417
	June	1 966	826	417	812	3 527	2 097	5 804	2 945	1 020	19 414
	July	2 014	876	428	814	3 639	2 086	5 971	2 852	972	19 652
	August	1 985	884	414	783	3 574	2 029	5 727	2 830	960	19 186
	September	1 752	840	418	688	3 381	2 172	4 985	2 788	1 028	18 052
	October	1 801	840	447	709	3 547	2 268	4 991	2 997	1 051	18 651
	November	1 767	840	428	666	3 429	2 248	4 814	2 916	1 035	18 143
	December	1 763	783	441	647	3 466	2 107	4 426	2 895	1 050	17 578
	Year	22 779	9 710	4 985	8 804	41 923	25 972	61 256	35 152	12 129	222 710
Year to date	5 874	2 284	1 197	2 160	10 304	6 523	14 087	8 877	3 021	54 327	
2012	January	1 889	844	464	706	3 527	2 237	4 631	2 910	1 038	18 246
	February	1 922	816	403	668	3 271	2 034	4 509	2 779	998	17 390
	March 2/	2 027	859	436	688	3 282	2 161	4 849	2 900	1 000	18 202
	Year to date	5 838	2 519	1 303	2 062	10 080	6 432	13 989	8 589	3 036	53 838

1/ Wholesale energy (Gigawatt-hours) 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 volume of electricity units generated and available for distribution in South Africa, the volume of units purchased and sold outside South Africa and the volume 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. It includes electrical power installations, which, as subsidiary divisions of undertakings, produce electricity for regular use by these undertakings.
- Classification** 6 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)* with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry, which reflects the predominant activity of the electricity undertaking or establishment.
- Collection rate** 7 The collection rate for the survey on electricity generated and available for distribution for March 2012 was 99%.
- 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 *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)* 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, email and telephone. Information is collected from a sample of 23 electricity undertakings or establishments.
- Monthly production indices** 11 The calculation of the monthly production indices is based on the volume 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. These levels are weighted according to the original sample and designed 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 a benchmark 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 August 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 August 1995 as reference point).
Seasonal adjustment	14	Seasonally adjusted estimates of all items are generated each month, using the X-12-ARIMA 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 recognized. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. This means the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X12-ARIMA procedure for electricity generated and available for distribution is described in more detail on the Stats SA website at http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P4141/electricity_seasonal_adjustment_note_2011.pdf
Trend cycle	15	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates.
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>; and • <i>SA Statistics</i>.
Rounding-off of figures	17	Where necessary, the figures in the tables have 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.

Glossary

Consumption of electricity	For purposes of this release the term 'consumption of electricity' is used interchangeably with the term 'electricity available for distribution'.										
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	<table> <tr> <td>GDP</td> <td>Gross domestic product</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISIC</td> <td>International Standard Industrial Classification</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIC</td> <td>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stats SA</td> <td>Statistics South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*</td> <td>Revised figures</td> </tr> </table>	GDP	Gross domestic product	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa	*	Revised figures
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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