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# Statistical release

**P4141**

## **Electricity generated and available for distribution (Preliminary)**

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## Results for March 2013

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

Actual estimates	March 2013 1/	% change between March 2012 and March 2013	% change between January to March 2012 and January to March 2013
Electricity available for distribution (Gigawatt-hours)	19 038	-3,0	-4,6
Index of the physical volume of electricity production (2010=100)	98,8	-0,5	-2,3

1/ Preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2013	% change between February and March 2013	% change between October to December 2012 and January to March 2013
Electricity available for distribution (Gigawatt-hours)	18 921	-0,2	-1,7
Index of the physical volume of electricity production (2010=100)	98,2	-0,3	-0,8

### Consumption of electricity

The actual volume of electricity consumption decreased by 3,0% year-on-year in March 2013. Seasonally adjusted electricity consumption decreased by 0,2% month-on-month in March 2013, following month-on-month decreases of 1,6% in February and 0,6% in January. Seasonally adjusted electricity consumption decreased by 1,7% in the first quarter of 2013 compared with the fourth quarter of 2012.

### Production of electricity

The actual estimated electricity production decreased by 0,5% year-on-year in March 2013. Seasonally adjusted electricity production decreased by 0,3% month-on-month in March 2013, following a month-on-month increase of 0,1% in February 2013. Seasonally adjusted electricity production decreased by 0,8% in the first quarter of 2013 compared with the previous quarter.

### Electricity delivered by Eskom to the provinces

The total volume of electricity delivered by Eskom to the provinces decreased by 2,8% (-508 Gigawatt-hours) in March 2013 compared with March 2012. Decreases were reported in seven of the nine provinces, with the largest volume decrease recorded for Gauteng (-194 Gigawatt-hours), followed by North West (-188 Gigawatt-hours) and Mpumalanga (-119 Gigawatt-hours). KwaZulu-Natal recorded the largest volume increase (172 Gigawatt-hours) over this period.

**Table B – Comparison of the seasonally adjusted volume of electricity generated and available for distribution between the first quarter of 2013 and the previous quarter**

Gigawatt-hours	Seasonally adjusted quantity October to December 2012	Seasonally adjusted quantity January to March 2013	% change between October to December 2012 and January to March 2013	Quantity difference between October to December 2012 and January to March 2013
Electricity produced	64 374	63 888	-0,8	-486
Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	58 092	57 132	-1,7	-960

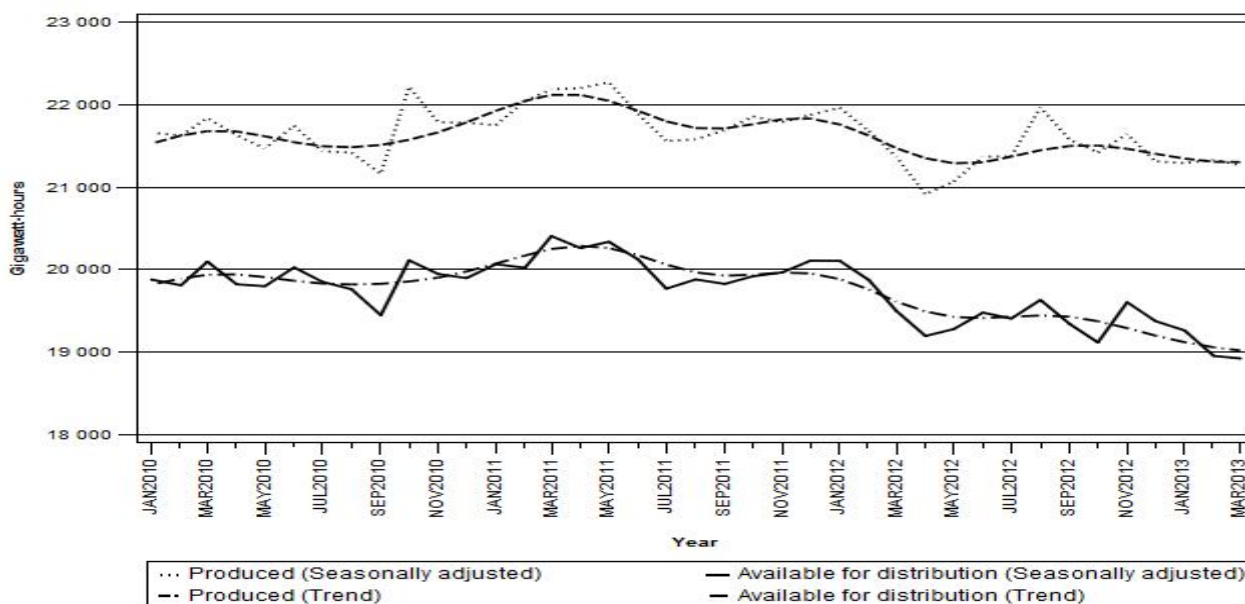
**Table C – Comparison of actual estimates between the first quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2012**

Gigawatt-hours	Actual volume January to March 2012	Actual volume January to March 2013	% change between January to March 2012 and January to March 2013	Quantity difference between January to March 2012 and January to March 2013
Electricity produced	63 237	61 773	-2,3	-1 464
Purchased outside South Africa (import) 1/	3 093	1 538	-50,3	-1 555
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 546	4 525	-0,5	-21
Sold outside South Africa (export) 2/	3 701	3 397	-8,2	-304
Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	58 082	55 391	-4,6	-2 691

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: 2008–2013**

Month	Gigawatt-hours					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	19 256	17 919	19 396	19 616	19 676	18 860
February	18 668	16 757	18 181	18 455	18 783	17 493
March	19 603	18 694	20 186	20 518	19 623	1/ 19 038
April	19 127	17 934	19 102	19 539	18 466	
May	20 365	19 548	20 435	20 938	19 869	
June	20 515	19 819	20 800	20 914	20 274	
July	21 610	21 151	21 307	21 162	20 743	
August	20 736	20 398	20 540	20 617	20 345	
September	19 725	19 382	19 256	19 619	19 100	
October	20 138	19 899	20 371	20 198	19 413	
November	18 640	19 248	19 702	19 763	19 426	
December	17 541	18 850	18 996	19 189	18 456	
<b>Year</b>	<b>235 924</b>	<b>229 599</b>	<b>238 272</b>	<b>240 528</b>	<b>234 174</b>	

1/ Preliminary.

**Table 2 – Annual percentage change in electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2008–2013**

Month	Percentage change 2/					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	-1,6	-6,9	8,2	1,1	0,3	-4,1
February	2,0	-10,2	8,5	1,5	1,8	-6,9
March	-2,8	-4,6	8,0	1,6	-4,4	-3,0
April	0,8	-6,2	6,5	2,3	-5,5	
May	-2,6	-4,0	4,5	2,5	-5,1	
June	-2,4	-3,4	4,9	0,5	-3,1	
July	-0,8	-2,1	0,7	-0,7	-2,0	
August	-2,9	-1,6	0,7	0,4	-1,3	
September	0,0	-1,7	-0,7	1,9	-2,6	
October	-1,5	-1,2	2,4	-0,8	-3,9	
November	-5,8	3,3	2,4	0,3	-1,7	
December	-8,4	7,5	0,8	1,0	-3,8	
<b>Year</b>	<b>-2,2</b>	<b>-2,7</b>	<b>3,8</b>	<b>0,9</b>	<b>-2,6</b>	

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: 2008–2013**

Month	Gigawatt-hours						% change between current and previous month
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
January	19 752	18 404	19 877	20 064	20 105	19 260	-0,6
February	19 924	18 425	19 808	20 020	19 872	18 951	-1,6
March	19 564	18 632	20 095	20 405	19 498	18 921	-0,2
April	19 892	18 672	19 820	20 259	19 193		
May	19 634	18 872	19 797	20 336	19 277		
June	19 763	19 044	20 025	20 122	19 477		
July	20 112	19 656	19 850	19 767	19 404		
August	19 866	19 567	19 760	19 879	19 631		
September	19 936	19 579	19 445	19 825	19 339		
October	19 872	19 641	20 111	19 918	19 115		
November	18 933	19 508	19 944	19 964	19 603		
December	18 386	19 729	19 895	20 107	19 374		

**Table 4 – Indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2008–2013**

Month	Base: 2010=100					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	99,3	89,7	97,6	98,1	99,2	96,2
February	94,1	83,5	91,1	93,3	93,8	90,5
March	99,6	93,7	101,3	103,0	99,3	1/ 98,8
April	96,2	90,7	96,2	98,9	92,9	
May	103,4	98,6	102,3	105,9	100,3	
June	102,6	98,8	103,8	104,6	102,2	
July	108,6	106,4	106,6	106,8	105,7	
August	104,0	102,7	103,2	103,7	105,4	
September	98,8	98,5	97,0	99,4	98,7	
October	103,2	99,6	104,6	103,1	101,1	
November	95,7	96,8	100,0	100,1	99,5	
December	88,3	94,6	96,3	96,7	94,0	
<b>Year</b>	<b>99,5</b>	<b>96,1</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>101,1</b>	<b>99,3</b>	

1/ Preliminary.

**Table 5 – Annual percentage change in indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2008–2013**

Month	Percentage change 2/					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	1,2	-9,7	8,8	0,5	1,1	-3,0
February	2,6	-11,3	9,1	2,4	0,5	-3,5
March	-2,1	-5,9	8,1	1,7	-3,6	-0,5
April	1,1	-5,7	6,1	2,8	-6,1	
May	-2,1	-4,6	3,8	3,5	-5,3	
June	-3,3	-3,7	5,1	0,8	-2,3	
July	-1,3	-2,0	0,2	0,2	-1,0	
August	-3,3	-1,3	0,5	0,5	1,6	
September	-0,7	-0,3	-1,5	2,5	-0,7	
October	0,2	-3,5	5,0	-1,4	-1,9	
November	-5,1	1,1	3,3	0,1	-0,6	
December	-10,5	7,1	1,8	0,4	-2,8	
<b>Year</b>	<b>-2,0</b>	<b>-3,4</b>	<b>4,0</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>-1,8</b>	

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: 2008–2013**

Month	Base: 2010=100						% change between current and previous month
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
January	101,8	92,1	100,1	100,5	101,5	98,4	-0,1
February	101,1	92,4	99,9	101,8	100,1	98,5	0,1
March	99,4	93,4	100,9	102,5	98,7	98,2	-0,3
April	100,2	94,6	99,9	102,6	96,6		
May	99,9	95,3	99,2	102,9	97,3		
June	99,3	95,5	100,4	101,1	98,7		
July	100,8	98,6	99,0	99,6	98,7		
August	99,3	98,1	98,9	99,7	101,5		
September	99,8	99,3	97,8	100,2	99,7		
October	101,3	97,7	102,6	101,0	99,0		
November	96,8	97,6	100,6	100,7	100,0		
December	92,3	98,8	100,6	101,1	98,5		

**Table 7 – Total volume of electricity imported: 2008–2013 1/**

Month	Gigawatt-hours					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	638	1 102	1 122	1 088	1 085	676
February	885	999	995	730	1 063	407
March	802	1 064	1 040	1 112	945	2/ 455
April	844	906	931	912	1 068	
May	761	937	1 074	907	1 066	
June	1 002	1 088	1 019	1 009	1 044	
July	1 089	1 040	1 117	979	903	
August	1 076	1 072	1 109	1 108	465	
September	1 044	920	1 068	974	474	
October	645	1 115	770	911	451	
November	711	940	1 018	1 073	654	
December	1 075	1 112	930	1 087	788	
<b>Year</b>	<b>10 572</b>	<b>12 295</b>	<b>12 193</b>	<b>11 890</b>	<b>10 006</b>	

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: 2008–2013 1/**

Month	Gigawatt-hours					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	1 280	1 096	1 217	1 133	1 247	1 115
February	1 101	979	1 128	1 069	1 212	1 095
March	1 136	1 100	1 252	1 279	1 242	2/ 1 187
April	998	1 086	1 170	1 190	1 174	
May	1 120	1 109	1 177	1 241	1 322	
June	1 162	1 175	1 132	1 174	1 335	
July	1 249	1 223	1 206	1 247	1 350	
August	1 220	1 235	1 275	1 298	1 295	
September	1 203	1 285	1 248	1 288	1 165	
October	1 258	1 288	1 338	1 378	1 300	
November	1 252	1 213	1 316	1 381	1 233	
December	1 189	1 263	1 209	1 286	1 160	
<b>Year</b>	<b>14 168</b>	<b>14 052</b>	<b>14 668</b>	<b>14 964</b>	<b>15 035</b>	

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 2012	February 2013	March 2013 1/	% change between March 2012 and March 2013	Difference between March 2012 and March 2013
<b>Total - All producers</b>	Electricity produced	21 479	19 584	21 370	-0,5	-109
	Purchased outside South Africa (import) 2/	945	407	455	-51,9	-490
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 559	1 404	1 600	2,6	41
	Sold outside South Africa (export) 3/	1 242	1 095	1 187	-4,4	-55
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	<b>19 623</b>	<b>17 493</b>	<b>19 038</b>	<b>-3,0</b>	<b>-585</b>
<b>ESKOM</b>	Electricity produced	20 605	18 847	20 544	-0,3	-61
	Purchased outside South Africa (import) 2/	945	407	455	-51,9	-490
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 488	1 342	1 536	3,2	48
	Sold outside South Africa (export) 3/	1 242	1 095	1 187	-4,4	-55
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	<b>18 820</b>	<b>16 818</b>	<b>18 276</b>	<b>-2,9</b>	<b>-544</b>

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 2012	January to March 2013 1/	% change between January to March 2012 and January to March 2013	Difference between January to March 2012 and January to March 2013
<b>Total - All producers</b>	Electricity produced	63 237	61 773	-2,3	-1 464
	Purchased outside South Africa (import) 2/	3 093	1 538	-50,3	-1 555
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 546	4 525	-0,5	-21
	Sold outside South Africa (export) 3/	3 701	3 397	-8,2	-304
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	<b>58 082</b>	<b>55 391</b>	<b>-4,6</b>	<b>-2 691</b>
<b>ESKOM</b>	Electricity produced	60 627	59 467	-1,9	-1 160
	Purchased outside South Africa (import) 2/	3 093	1 538	-50,3	-1 555
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 314	4 337	0,5	23
	Sold outside South Africa (export) 3/	3 701	3 397	-8,2	-304
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	<b>55 704</b>	<b>53 272</b>	<b>-4,4</b>	<b>-2 432</b>

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 2012 and 2013 1/**

Period		Gigawatt-hours									
		Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	Total South Africa
<b>2012</b>	January	1 889	844	464	706	3 527	2 237	4 631	2 910	1 038	<b>18 246</b>
	February	1 922	816	403	668	3 271	2 034	4 509	2 779	988	<b>17 390</b>
	March	2 027	859	436	688	3 282	2 161	4 849	2 900	1 000	<b>18 202</b>
	April	1 846	763	391	655	3 154	1 993	4 624	2 800	937	<b>17 163</b>
	May	1 943	839	401	709	3 318	2 181	5 159	2 884	991	<b>18 425</b>
	June	1 933	802	406	775	3 315	2 205	5 643	2 816	974	<b>18 869</b>
	July	1 978	837	432	793	3 441	2 273	5 731	2 922	952	<b>19 359</b>
	August	1 993	838	420	776	3 436	2 186	5 540	2 767	937	<b>18 893</b>
	September	1 852	788	414	664	3 316	2 097	4 981	2 678	950	<b>17 740</b>
	October	1 885	795	418	703	3 458	2 085	4 856	2 884	988	<b>18 072</b>
	November	1 840	784	451	717	3 422	2 170	4 701	2 944	975	<b>18 004</b>
	December	1 867	751	433	633	3 355	2 039	4 213	2 805	959	<b>17 055</b>
	<b>Year</b>	<b>22 975</b>	<b>9 716</b>	<b>5 069</b>	<b>8 487</b>	<b>40 295</b>	<b>25 661</b>	<b>59 437</b>	<b>34 089</b>	<b>11 689</b>	<b>217 418</b>
	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>5 838</b>	<b>2 519</b>	<b>1 303</b>	<b>2 062</b>	<b>10 080</b>	<b>6 432</b>	<b>13 989</b>	<b>8 589</b>	<b>3 026</b>	<b>53 838</b>
<b>2013</b>	January	1 932	796	490	667	3 409	2 022	4 432	2 911	910	<b>17 569</b>
	February	1 825	751	441	618	3 137	1 900	4 216	2 517	811	<b>16 216</b>
	March 2/	1 956	839	476	630	3 454	1 973	4 655	2 781	930	<b>17 694</b>
	<b>Year to date</b>	<b>5 713</b>	<b>2 386</b>	<b>1 407</b>	<b>1 915</b>	<b>10 000</b>	<b>5 895</b>	<b>13 303</b>	<b>8 209</b>	<b>2 651</b>	<b>51 479</b>

1/ Wholesale energy (Gigawatt-hours) as delivered by Eskom to the various provinces.

2/ Preliminary.

## Explanatory notes

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	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.
	<b>2</b>	This statistical release reflects indices of the physical volume of electricity production on the basis of 2010=100. In accordance with international practice, the indices have to be rebased every five years to a new base year.
	<b>3</b>	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.
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>4</b>	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.
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>5</b>	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.
<b>Classification</b>	<b>6</b>	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.
<b>Collection rate</b>	<b>7</b>	The collection rate for the survey on electricity generated and available for distribution for March 2013 was 96%. The collection rate for February 2013 was 100%.
<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>8</b>	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).
<b>Survey methodology and design</b>	<b>9</b>	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.
	<b>10</b>	The survey is conducted by mail, email and telephone. Information is collected from a sample of 25 electricity undertakings or establishments.
<b>Monthly production indices</b>	<b>11</b>	The calculation of the monthly production indices is based on the volume of electricity units produced.

<b>Benchmarking</b>	<b>12</b>	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.
	<b>13</b>	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).
<b>Seasonal adjustment</b>	<b>14</b>	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 <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P4141/electricity_seasonal_adjustment_note_2012.pdf">http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P4141/electricity_seasonal_adjustment_note_2012.pdf</a>
<b>Trend cycle</b>	<b>15</b>	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.
<b>Related publications</b>	<b>16</b>	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bulletin of Statistics;</i></li> <li>• <i>SA Statistics;</i> and</li> <li>• <i>Stats in Brief.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Rounding-off of figures</b>	<b>17</b>	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 2010. 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 *System of National Accounts (1993 SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)*, 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

## Technical enquiries

**Suzzie Mnguni** Telephone number: (012) 310 8443  
Email: [suzziemn@statssa.gov.za](mailto:suzziemn@statssa.gov.za)

**Nicolai Claassen** Telephone number: (012) 336 0142  
Email: [nicolaic@statssa.gov.za](mailto:nicolaic@statssa.gov.za)

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### General enquiries

**User information services** Telephone number: (012) 310 8600  
Email: [info@statssa.gov.za](mailto:info@statssa.gov.za)

**Orders/subscription services** Telephone number: (012) 310 8358  
Email: [magdaj@statssa.gov.za](mailto:magdaj@statssa.gov.za)

**Postal address:** Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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