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Electricity generated and available for distribution
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Electricity generated (produced) in South Africa: results for March 2017

Table A – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity generated

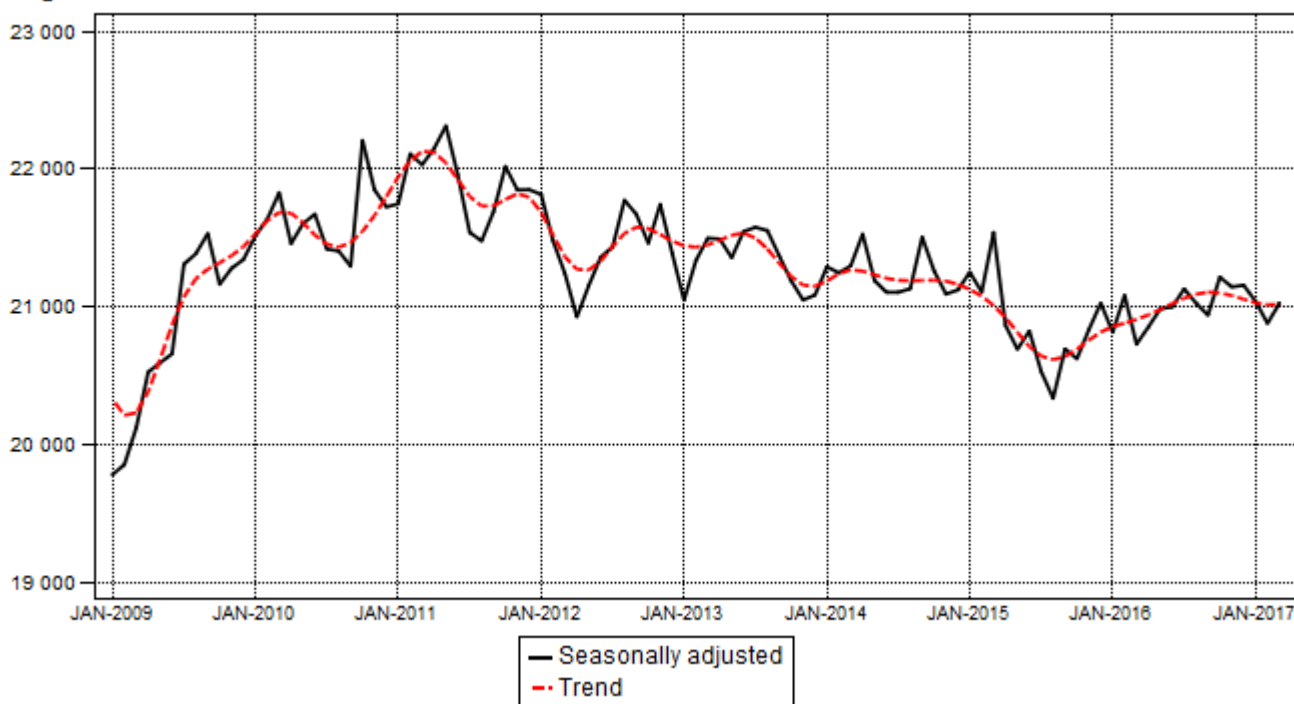
	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,2	2,2	0,8	0,8	-3,9	2,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,3	-0,3	0,0	-0,5	-0,8	0,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,1	0,2	0,7	0,3	-0,4	-0,9

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity generation (production) increased by 2,7% year-on-year in March 2017. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation increased by 0,7% in March 2017 compared with February 2017. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,8% in February 2017 and -0,5% in January 2017. Seasonally adjusted electricity generation decreased by 0,9% in the first quarter of 2017 compared with fourth quarter of 2016.

Figure 1 – Electricity generated in South Africa

Gigawatt-hours



Electricity distributed (consumed) in South Africa: results for March 2017

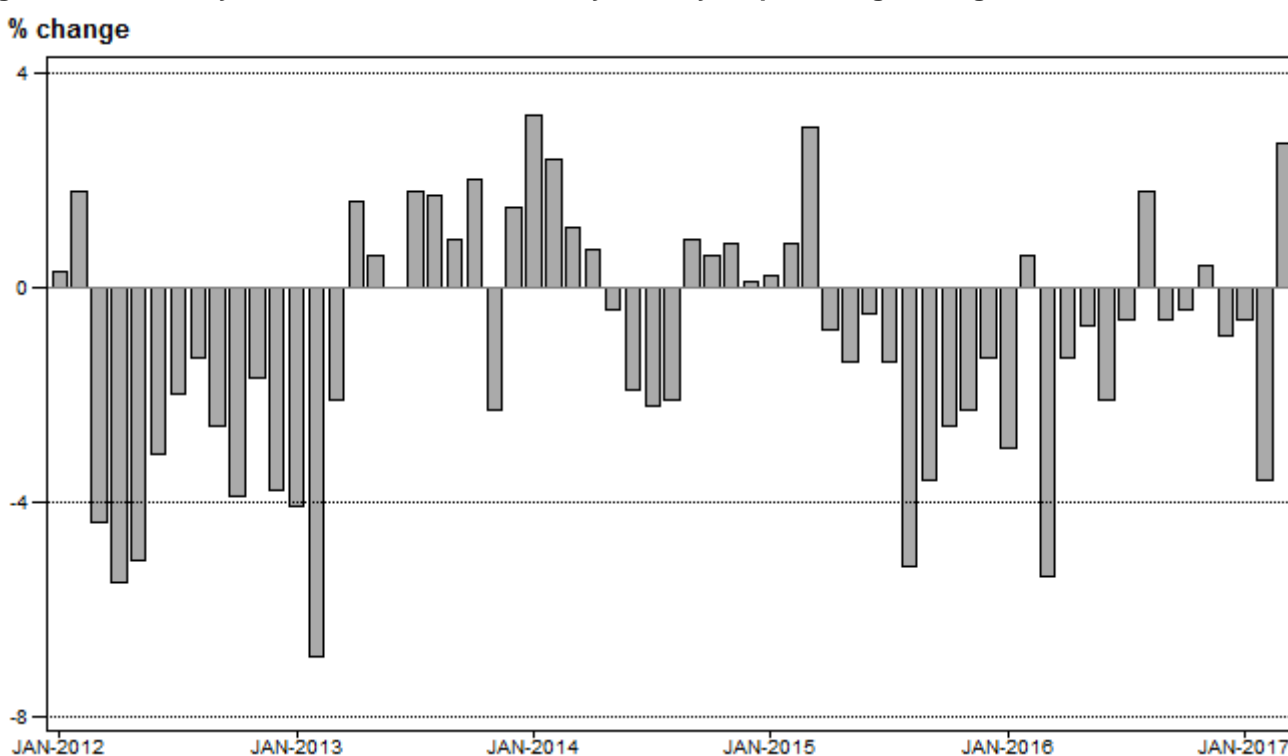
Table B – Key growth rates in the volume of electricity distributed

	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,4	0,4	-0,9	-0,6	-3,6	2,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,0	-0,5	0,1	-0,3	0,1	0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,1	0,7	0,8	0,3	-0,1	0,0

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Electricity distribution (consumption) increased by 2,7% year-on-year in March 2017. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution increased by 0,9% month-on-month in March 2017, following month-on-month changes of 0,1% in February 2017 and -0,3% in January 2017. Seasonally adjusted electricity distribution was flat in the first quarter of 2017 compared with fourth quarter of 2016.

Figure 2 – Electricity distributed in South Africa: year-on-year percentage change



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Index of the volume of electricity generated (Base: 2015=100)

Month	2011 *	2012 *	2013 *	2014 *	2015 *	2016 *	2017 ¹
Jan	101,9	103,0	99,9	101,4	101,3	99,2	* 100,0
Feb	96,8	97,4	93,9	93,7	93,1	95,8	92,1
Mar	106,9	103,0	103,3	102,6	103,7	99,5	102,2
Apr	102,6	96,4	100,4	99,7	96,4	97,3	
May	109,9	104,1	105,0	103,9	101,4	102,7	
Jun	108,5	106,1	106,1	103,6	102,6	103,1	
Jul	110,9	109,7	110,4	108,1	105,4	108,4	
Aug	107,7	109,4	108,2	106,0	101,1	105,1	
Sep	103,1	102,4	101,0	102,2	98,6	99,7	
Oct	106,9	104,9	103,7	104,2	101,0	103,2	
Nov	103,9	103,3	100,0	99,3	98,0	100,2	
Dec	100,3	97,6	96,9	97,5	97,3	98,1	
Total	105,0	103,1	102,4	101,9	100,0	101,0	

¹ Latest month is preliminary.

* Revised.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in the volume of electricity generated

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017 year-to-date
Jan	1,1	-3,0	1,5	-0,1	-2,1	0,8	0,8
Feb	0,6	-3,6	-0,2	-0,6	2,9	-3,9	-1,5
Mar	-3,6	0,3	-0,7	1,1	-4,1	2,7	-0,1
Apr	-6,0	4,1	-0,7	-3,3	0,9		
May	-5,3	0,9	-1,0	-2,4	1,3		
Jun	-2,2	0,0	-2,4	-1,0	0,5		
Jul	-1,1	0,6	-2,1	-2,5	2,8		
Aug	1,6	-1,1	-2,0	-4,6	4,0		
Sep	-0,7	-1,4	1,2	-3,5	1,1		
Oct	-1,9	-1,1	0,5	-3,1	2,2		
Nov	-0,6	-3,2	-0,7	-1,3	2,2		
Dec	-2,7	-0,7	0,6	-0,2	0,8		
Total	-1,8	-0,7	-0,5	-1,9	1,0		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted index of the volume of electricity generated

Month	Base: 2015=100				Month-on-month % change			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	102,1	101,9	99,8	100,9	1,0	0,7	-1,0	-0,5
Feb	101,9	101,2	101,1	100,1	-0,2	-0,7	1,3	-0,8
Mar	102,1	103,3	99,4	100,8	0,2	2,1	-1,7	0,7
Apr	103,2	100,0	100,0		1,1	-3,2	0,6	
May	101,6	99,2	100,6		-1,6	-0,8	0,6	
Jun	101,2	99,8	100,7		-0,4	0,6	0,1	
Jul	101,2	98,4	101,3		0,0	-1,4	0,6	
Aug	101,3	97,5	100,8		0,1	-0,9	-0,5	
Sep	103,1	99,2	100,4		1,8	1,7	-0,4	
Oct	101,9	98,9	101,7		-1,2	-0,3	1,3	
Nov	101,1	99,9	101,4		-0,8	1,0	-0,3	
Dec	101,2	100,8	101,4		0,1	0,9	0,0	

Table 4 – Volume of electricity distributed in South Africa (gigawatt-hours)

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015 *	2016 *	2017 ¹
Jan	19 676	18 860	19 457	19 491	18 902	* 18 786
Feb	18 783	17 493	17 917	18 060	18 167	17 511
Mar	19 623	19 202	19 415	19 998	18 910	19 416
Apr	18 466	18 762	18 895	18 739	18 504	
May	19 869	19 991	19 907	19 620	19 481	
Jun	20 274	20 270	19 891	19 797	19 377	
Jul	20 743	21 119	20 661	20 368	20 266	
Aug	20 345	20 689	* 20 255	19 209	19 549	
Sep	19 100	19 271	* 19 450	18 757	18 646	
Oct	19 413	19 795	* 19 905	19 389	19 318	
Nov	19 426	18 984	* 19 126	18 684	18 756	
Dec	18 456	18 733	* 18 752	18 503	18 342	
Total	234 174	233 169	233 631	230 615	228 218	

¹ Latest month is preliminary.

* Revised.

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in electricity distributed in South Africa

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017 year-to-date
Jan	-4,1	3,2	0,2	-3,0	-0,6	-0,6
Feb	-6,9	2,4	0,8	0,6	-3,6	-2,1
Mar	-2,1	1,1	3,0	-5,4	2,7	-0,5
Apr	1,6	0,7	-0,8	-1,3		
May	0,6	-0,4	-1,4	-0,7		
Jun	0,0	-1,9	-0,5	-2,1		
Jul	1,8	-2,2	-1,4	-0,5		
Aug	1,7	-2,1	-5,2	1,8		
Sep	0,9	0,9	-3,6	-0,6		
Oct	2,0	0,6	-2,6	-0,4		
Nov	-2,3	0,7	-2,3	0,4		
Dec	1,5	0,1	-1,3	-0,9		
Total	-0,4	0,2	-1,3	-1,0		

Table 6 – Seasonally adjusted volume of electricity distributed in South Africa

Month	Gigawatt-hours				Month-on-month % change			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	19 530	19 586	19 023	18 970	-0,1	0,4	-0,9	-0,2
Feb	19 447	19 575	19 072	18 992	-0,4	-0,1	0,3	0,1
Mar	19 377	19 963	18 915	19 167	-0,4	2,0	-0,8	0,9
Apr	19 554	19 348	18 934		0,9	-3,1	0,1	
May	19 397	19 129	19 019		-0,8	-1,1	0,4	
Jun	19 335	19 211	18 856		-0,3	0,4	-0,9	
Jul	19 327	19 033	18 942		0,0	-0,9	0,5	
Aug	19 395	18 556	18 820		0,4	-2,5	-0,6	
Sep	19 783	19 050	18 920		2,0	2,7	0,5	
Oct	19 584	19 071	19 104		-1,0	0,1	1,0	
Nov	19 490	19 048	19 003		-0,5	-0,1	-0,5	
Dec	19 499	19 204	19 006		0,0	0,8	0,0	

Table 7 – Volume of electricity by category (gigawatt-hours)

	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17 ¹	Mar-17 year-on- year % change
Total - all producers						
Generated	* 20 894	* 20 459	* 20 847	19 203	21 295	2,6
Inflow into South Africa	819	711	701	670	765	-23,5
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 538	1 520	1 524	1 284	1 521	7,7
Outflow from South Africa	1 419	1 308	1 239	1 078	1 122	-21,4
Distributed in South Africa	* 18 756	* 18 342	* 18 786	17 511	19 416	2,7
Eskom						
Generated	19 122	18 595	19 057	17 639	19 600	1,6
Inflow into South Africa	819	711	701	670	765	-23,5
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 471	1 449	1 457	1 221	1 458	8,5
Outflow from South Africa	1 419	1 308	1 239	1 078	1 122	-21,4
Distributed in South Africa	17 052	16 549	17 062	16 010	17 784	1,5

¹ Preliminary.

* Revised.

Table 8 – Year-to-date volume of electricity by category: year-on-year percentage change and difference

	Jan – Mar 2016 (GWh)	Jan – Mar 2017 (GWh)	% change between Jan – Mar 2016 and Jan – Mar 2017	Difference between Jan – Mar 2016 and Jan – Mar 2017 (GWh)
Total - all producers				
Generated	61 407	61 345	-0,1	-62
Inflow into South Africa	2 988	2 136	-28,5	-852
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 252	4 329	1,8	77
Outflow from South Africa	4 164	3 439	-17,4	-725
Distributed in South Africa	55 978	55 713	-0,5	-265
Eskom				
Generated	57 232	56 296	-1,6	-936
Inflow into South Africa	2 988	2 136	-28,5	-852
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 056	4 136	2,0	80
Outflow from South Africa	4 164	3 439	-17,4	-725
Distributed in South Africa	51 998	50 856	-2,2	-1 142

Table 9 – Volume of electricity delivered to provinces (gigawatt-hours)

Province	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17 ¹	Mar-17 year-on- year % change
Western Cape	1 861	1 874	1 870	1 828	2 011	3,7
Eastern Cape	* 840	* 816	* 838	770	835	16,1
Northern Cape	* 511	* 536	* 552	478	481	-3,4
Free State	801	845	856	777	847	3,2
KwaZulu-Natal	3 397	3 443	3 493	3 214	3 629	4,9
North West	2 485	2 461	2 482	2 120	2 599	7,6
Gauteng	4 501	4 216	4 401	4 182	4 647	2,1
Mpumalanga	2 840	2 878	2 906	2 559	2 878	0,4
Limpopo	1 050	1 058	1 122	970	1 133	-3,4
Total	* 18 285	* 18 126	* 18 521	16 897	19 061	3,3

¹ Preliminary.

* Revised.

Electricity generated and available for distribution, March 2017

Survey information

Introduction	1	<p>Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey covering electricity undertakings and establishments (branches) in the electricity industry. This statistical release contains monthly information regarding the volume of electricity units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generated and distributed in South Africa; • flowing into and out from South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders; and • delivered to provinces. <p>Both unadjusted and seasonally adjusted figures are published.</p>
	2	In accordance with international practice, the indices are usually re-based every five years to a new base year. The current base period of the index is 2015.
	3	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 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 and/or distribution of electricity (excluding the distribution of purchased electric energy). 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 <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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 2017 was 100%. The collection rate for February 2017 was 100%.
Statistical unit	8	The 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 (see point 5).
Revised figures	9	<p>Normally revised figures are due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • late submission of data to Stats SA; and • revisions or corrections by respondents to previous reported data. <p>Data are edited at enterprise level.</p>
Rounding-off of figures	10	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Historical data	11	Historical electricity data are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following link (Time series data) to access the data electronically
Past publications	12	Past electricity releases are available on the Stats SA webpage. Click on the following link (Past publications) to access the releases electronically.

Technical notes

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Survey methodology and design | 1 | All statistical units are stratified by type of economic activity according to the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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 group one) 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 kilowatts is excluded from the sample. |
| | 2 | The survey is conducted by electronic filing, email, fax and telephone. Information is collected from a sample of 24 electricity undertakings or establishments. As from September 2013, Eskom supplied additional data for independent power producers (IPPs) that were not in the original sample of 24 establishments. |
| Monthly index of electricity generated | 3 | The calculation of the monthly index of electricity generated is based on the volume of electricity units produced. |
| Benchmarking | 4 | <p>The index of the volume of electricity generated should provide an accurate reflection of the trend of activities of the relevant industry. The level of activities, as measured by the monthly electricity 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.</p> <p>The results of the 1995 Census of electricity, gas and steam served as a benchmark to verify or adjust the level of the monthly index of the volume of electricity generated collected through the monthly survey. The level adjustments were done on the volume index for July of the relevant census year (the 1995 census year covered the period 1 January to 31 December 1995 and therefore, the benchmarking was done using the index of July 1995 as reference point).</p> |
| Seasonal adjustment | 5 | <p>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 Click to download Electricity seasonal adjustment November 2016.pdf</p> |
| Trend cycle | 6 | 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 to estimate the underlying trend cycle. |
| Month-on-month percentage change | 7 | The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter. |
| Year-on-year percentage change | 8 | The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter. |

Glossary

Electricity undertaking	An undertaking concerned with the generation and distribution of electricity, including electrical power installations, which, as subsidiary divisions of undertakings, produce electricity for regular use by these undertakings.	
Index of the volume of electricity generated	A statistical measure of the change in the volume of electricity generated in a given period and the volume of electricity generated in the base period. The base period is 2015. The production in the base period is set at 100.	
Industry	An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the System of National Accounts (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.	
Inflow into SA	Electricity flowing into South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.	
Outflow from SA	Electricity flowing from South Africa as measured by the metering systems at the South African borders.	
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
	GWh	Gigawatt-hour
	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
	SA	South Africa
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	*	Revised figures

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