

Statistical release P4141

Electricity generated and available for distribution (preliminary)

May 2009

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: ELECTRICITY GENERATED AND AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION (MAY 2009)

Key figures

Table A – Selected key figures regarding electricity generated and available for distribution for May 2009

Estimates	May 2009 1/	% change between May 2008 and May 2009	% change between March to May 2008 and March to May 2009	% change between January to May 2008 and January to May 2009
Electricity available for distribution (Gigawatt-hours)	19 556	-4,0	-4,9	-6,3
Index of the physical volume of electricity production (2005=100)	104,5	-4,7	-5,4	-7,4

^{1/} Preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted estimates	May 2009	% change between April and May 2009	% change between December 2008 to February 2009 and March to May 2009	
Electricity available for distribution (Gigawatt-hours)	18 822	-0,1	2,9	
Index of the physical volume of electricity production (2005=100)	100,4	-0,4	3,0	

Key findings

Seasonally adjusted consumption of electricity for 2009 levels out

Electricity consumption after seasonal adjustment for the three months ended May 2009 increased by 2,9% compared with the previous three months ended February 2009 (see tables A, B and 6), indicating a turn in the decreasing trend since the beginning of 2008 (see figure 1, page 3 and table 2). The estimated consumption of electricity was 4,0% lower (-809 Gigawatt-hours) in May 2009 compared with May 2008 (see tables A, 2 and 9a) and 6,3% lower (-6 150 Gigawatt-hours) in the first five months of 2009 compared with the first five months of 2008 (see tables A and 9b).

Production of electricity shows signs of improvement

Estimated seasonally adjusted production of electricity for March to May 2009 increased by 3,0% compared with the previous three months. The estimated production of electricity in May 2009 (21 329 Gigawatt-hours) represents a decline of 4,7% compared with the May 2008 figure, the smallest annual decrease for 2009 thus far (see tables A and 5).

Distribution of electricity by Eskom to the provinces lower than a year ago

Electricity distributed to the provinces for the first five months of 2009 was 6,2% (-5 570 Gigawatt-hours) lower compared with the first five months of 2008. Lower figures were reported for eight provinces during this period ranging from -13,1% for North West to -1,6% for Northern Cape. KwaZulu-Natal was the only province with an increase (0,4%) during this period.

International trade in electricity

The volume of electricity imported from outside South African borders increased from 3 930 Gigawatt-hours in the first five months of 2008 to 5 008 Gigawatt-hours in the first five months of 2009, representing an increase of 27,4% (1 078 Gigawatt-hours). The volume of electricity exported to neighbouring countries for the first five months of 2009 decreased by 4,7% (-265 Gigawatt-hours) compared with the first five months of 2008, from 5 635 Gigawatt-hours to 5 370 Gigawatt-hours (see table 9b).

Table B – Comparison of the seasonally adjusted quantity of electricity generated and available for distribution between the current quarter and the previous quarter

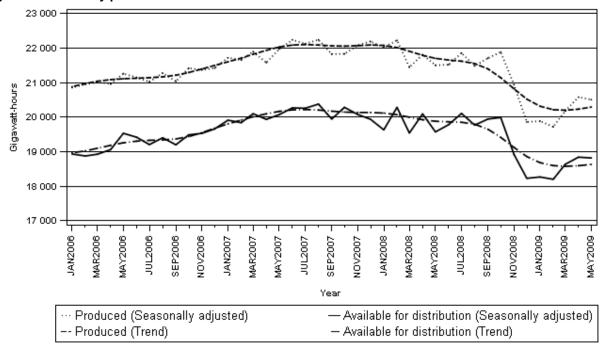
Gigawatt-hours	Seasonally adjusted quantity December 2008 to February 2009	Seasonally adjusted quantity March to May 2009	% change between December 2008 to February 2009 and March to May 2009	Quantity difference between December 2008 to February 2009 and March to May 2009
Electricity produced	59 476	61 272	3,0	1 796
Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	54 710	56 305	2,9	1 595

Table C – Comparison of actual estimates between the current quarter and the corresponding quarter of the previous year

Gigawatt-hours	Actual quantity March to May 2008	Actual quantity March to May 2009	% change between March to May 2008 and March to May 2009	Quantity difference between March to May 2008 and March to May 2009
Electricity produced	64 723	61 233	-5,4	-3 490
Purchased outside South Africa (import)	2 407	2 907	20,8	500
Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	4 781	4 654	-2,7	-127
Sold outside South Africa (export)	3 254	3 295	1,3	41
Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	59 095	56 193	-4,9	-2 902

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for electricity produced and available for distribution in South Africa from January 2006 to May 2009.

Figure 1 - Electricity produced and available for distribution in South Africa from 2006 to 2009



P J Lehohla Statistician-General

Detailed results: Tables

Table 1 – Total volume of electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2004 to 2009

Month			Gigawa	tt-hours		
MOIIII	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	17 850	18 149	18 603	19 561	19 256	17 919
February	17 277	17 169	17 396	18 301	18 668	16 757
March	18 476	18 487	18 982	20 160	19 603	18 698
April	17 524	18 133	18 122	18 982	19 127	17 939
May	18 909	19 224	20 312	20 901	20 365	1/ 19 556
June	19 337	18 983	20 166	21 020	20 515	
July	20 156	19 657	20 632	21 780	21 610	
August	19 265	19 191	20 307	21 353	20 736	
September	18 362	18 384	18 987	19 732	19 725	
October	18 714	19 127	19 663	20 435	20 138	
November	18 314	18 523	19 244	19 785	18 640	
December	17 754	18 230	18 909	19 160	17 541	
Year	221 938	223 257	231 323	241 170	235 924	

^{1/} Preliminary.

Table 2 - Annual percentage change in electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2004 to 2009

Month			Percentage	change 1/		
WOITH	2004 2005 2006 2007				2008	2009
January	4,4	1,7	2,5	5,1	-1,6	-6,9
February	6,9	-0,6	1,3	5,2	2,0	-10,2
March	4,7	0,1	2,7	6,2	-2,8	-4,6
April	3,7	3,5	-0,1	4,7	0,8	-6,2
May	4,1	1,7	5,7	2,9	-2,6	-4,0
June	5,5	-1,8	6,2	4,2	-2,4	
July	5,1	-2,5	5,0	5,6	-0,8	
August	2,9	-0,4	5,8	5,2	-2,9	
September	4,8	0,1	3,3	3,9	0,0	
October	1,3	2,2	2,8	3,9	-1,5	
November	2,9	1,1	3,9	2,8	-5,8	
December	1,7	2,7	3,7	1,3	-8,4	
Year	4,0	0,6	3,6	4,3	-2,2	

^{1/} The percentage change is the change in the index of the physical volume of electricity available for distribution of the relevant year compared with the index of the physical volume of electricity available for distribution of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted total volume of electricity available for distribution in South Africa: 2004 to 2009

				Gigawatt-	hours		
Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% change between current and previous month
January	18 197	18 484	18 937	19 915	19 636	18 272	0,2
February	18 745	18 631	18 879	19 844	20 287	18 205	-0,4
March	18 396	18 444	18 930	20 102	19 545	18 638	2,4
April	18 360	19 047	19 062	19 939	20 097	18 845	1,1
May	18 141	18 472	19 535	20 076	19 576	18 822	-0,1
June	18 569	18 258	19 422	20 272	19 786		
July	18 748	18 296	19 209	20 260	20 110		
August	18 470	18 369	19 406	20 381	19 773		
September	18 600	18 617	19 204	19 949	19 948		
October	18 482	18 929	19 490	20 287	19 993		
November	18 614	18 808	19 534	20 080	18 925		_
December	18 541	18 986	19 663	19 941	18 233		_

Table 4 - Indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2004 to 2009

Month			Base : 2	2005=100		
Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	95,5	97,6	99,8	103,9	105,3	95,0
February	92,2	91,7	94,0	97,2	99,7	88,5
March	98,7	100,2	103,3	107,8	105,6	99,3
April	94,7	98,1	98,0	100,9	102,0	96,2
May	102,4	102,9	108,1	112,0	109,6	1/ 104,5
June	105,0	101,6	107,3	112,5	108,8	
July	109,5	105,5	110,8	116,6	115,1	
August	104,3	103,0	109,1	114,1	110,3	
September	99,5	99,1	101,8	105,5	104,8	
October	102,1	102,5	107,2	109,1	109,4	
November	98,5	99,4	103,3	106,9	101,4	
December	96,0	98,2	100,9	104,6	93,6	
Year	99,9	100,0	103,6	107,6	105,5	

^{1/} Preliminary.

Table 5 – Annual percentage change in indices of the physical volume of electricity production: 2004 to 2009

Month	Percentage change 1/						
Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007	2009	
January	6,6	2,2	2,3	4,1	1,3	-9,8	
February	8,9	-0,5	2,5	3,4	2,6	-11,2	
March	6,2	1,5	3,1	4,4	-2,0	-6,0	
April	5,1	3,6	-0,1	3,0	1,1	-5,7	
May	5,3	0,5	5,1	3,6	-2,1	-4,7	
June	6,6	-3,2	5,6	4,8	-3,3		
July	6,8	-3,7	5,0	5,2	-1,3		
August	1,9	-1,2	5,9	4,6	-3,3		
September	2,6	-0,4	2,7	3,6	-0,7		
October	-0,1	0,4	4,6	1,8	0,3		
November	2,2	0,9	3,9	3,5	-5,1		
December	2,1	2,3	2,7	3,7	-10,5		
Year	4,4	0,1	3,7	3,8	-2,0		

^{1/} 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: 2004 to 2009

		Base : 2005=100										
Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% change between current and previous month					
January	98,0	100,1	102,1	106,4	107,8	97,4	0,1					
February	101,1	100,3	102,6	106,1	108,8	96,6	-0,8					
March	98,7	100,1	102,9	107,2	105,0	98,8	2,3					
April	99,1	102,8	102,7	105,7	106,8	100,8	2,0					
May	98,5	99,1	104,1	107,6	105,3	100,4	-0,4					
June	100,9	97,9	103,6	108,9	105,4							
July	101,5	97,9	103,0	108,4	107,0							
August	99,7	98,4	104,2	108,9	105,2							
September	100,4	100,3	103,0	106,9	106,3							
October	99,5	100,1	104,9	106,9	107,2							
November	100,1	100,9	104,6	108,1	102,6							
December	100,4	102,3	104,9	108,7	97,3							

Table 7 – Total volume of electricity imported: 2004 to 2009

Month	Gigawatt-hours								
WOITH	2004	2004 2005		2007	2008	2009			
January	828	729	872	1 088	638	1 102			
February	811	714	646	942	885	999			
March	863	533	581	973	802	1 064			
April	641	598	587	1 055	844	906			
May	547	849	879	900	761	1/ 937			
June	560	813	881	880	1 002				
July	607	856	926	984	1 089				
August	618	883	930	1 045	1 076				
September	590	686	971	1 026	1 044				
October	536	836	682	1 040	645				
November	746	865	862	796	711				
December	679	837	965	619	1 075				
Year	8 026	9 199	9 782	11 348	10 572				

^{1/} Preliminary.

Table 8 - Total volume of electricity exported: 2004 to 2009

Month	Gigawatt-hours								
Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009			
January	1 037	1 030	1 056	1 134	1 280	1 096			
February	977	901	1 050	1 060	1 101	979			
March	1 027	968	1 129	1 231	1 136	1 100			
April	951	991	1 017	1 132	998	1 086			
May	944	1 083	1 046	1 203	1 120	1/ 1 109			
June	1 057	1 096	1 102	1 256	1 162				
July	1 140	1 102	1 239	1 301	1 249				
August	1 049	1 144	1 262	1 252	1 220				
September	1 048	1 134	1 239	1 186	1 203				
October	1 112	1 161	1 311	1 252	1 258				
November	1 082	1 119	1 186	1 256	1 252				
December	1 029	1 155	1 129	1 233	1 189				
Year	12 453	12 884	13 766	14 496	14 168				

^{1/} 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-ho	ours	
		May 2008	April 2009	May 2009 1/	% change between May 2008 and May 2009	Difference between May 2008 and May 2009
Total - All	Electricity produced	22 362	19 628	21 329	-4,6	-1 033
producers	Purchased outside South Africa (import)	761	906	937	23,1	176
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 639	1 510	1 601	-2,3	-38
	Sold outside South Africa (export)	1 120	1 086	1 109	-1,0	-11
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	20 365	17 939	19 556	-4,0	-809
ESKOM	Electricity produced	21 422	18 863	20 620	-3,7	-802
	Purchased outside South Africa (import)	761	906	937	23,1	176
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	1 549	1 439	1 538	-0,7	-11
	Sold outside South Africa (export)	1 120	1 086	1 109	-1,0	-11
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	19 513	17 245	18 910	-3,1	-603

^{1/} Preliminary.

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 May 2008	January to May 2009 1/	% change between January to May 2008 and January to May 2009	Difference between January to May 2008 and January to May 2009			
Total - All	Electricity produced	106 562	98 684	-7,4	-7 878			
producers	Purchased outside South Africa (import)	3 930	5 008	27,4	1 078			
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	7 837	7 456	-4,9	-381			
	Sold outside South Africa (export)	5 635	5 370	-4,7	-265			
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	97 019	90 869	-6,3	-6 150			
ESKOM	Electricity produced	102 196	95 050	-7,0	-7 146			
	Purchased outside South Africa (import)	3 930	5 008	27,4	1 078			
	Consumed in power stations and auxiliary systems	7 394	7 091	-4,1	-303			
	Sold outside South Africa (export)	5 635	5 370	-4,7	-265			
	Electricity available for distribution in South Africa	93 094	87 599	-5,9	-5 495			

^{1/} Preliminary.

Table 10 – Electricity distributed by Eskom to provinces for 2008 and 2009 1/

			Gigawatt-hours Gigawatt-hours								
		Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu- Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpuma- langa	Limpopo	Total South Africa
2008	January	1 928	749	396	749	3 552	2 207	4 861	2 661	874	17 977
	February	1 839	758	396	700	3 390	2 102	4 640	2 600	898	17 323
	March	1 937	779	393	749	3 363	2 217	4 945	2 801	934	18 118
	April	1 893	753	363	717	3 322	2 089	4 784	2 796	934	17 651
	May	1 985	760	373	796	3 417	2 141	5 414	2 990	1 015	18 891
	June	1 987	834	374	800	3 333	2 142	5 523	2 966	992	18 951
	July	2 065	864	410	839	3 571	2 234	5 919	3 078	1 044	20 024
	August	1 999	845	406	757	3 575	2 180	5 438	2 937	1 039	19 176
	September	1 975	829	419	785	3 460	2 093	5 009	2 806	1 005	18 381
	October	1 952	838	442	803	3 575	2 192	4 983	2 985	1 010	18 780
	November	1 813	750	405	754	3 425	2 052	4 665	2 594	828	17 286
	December	1 872	673	391	737	3 258	1 845	4 292	2 399	848	16 315
	Year	23 245	9 432	4 768	9 186	41 241	25 494	60 473	33 613	11 421	218 873
	Year to date	9 582	3 799	1 921	3 711	17 044	10 756	24 644	13 848	4 655	89 960
2009	January	1 886	733	408	748	3 368	1 833	4 502	2 265	849	16 592
	February	1 779	625	367	661	3 196	1 721	4 272	2 154	752	15 527
	March	1 995	691	404	739	3 553	1 936	4 716	2 442	875	17 351
	April	1 812	713	350	673	3 410	1 852	4 499	2 476	860	16 645
	May 2/	1 852	799	361	735	3 583	2 008	5 270	2 732	935	18 275
	Year to date	9 324	3 561	1 890	3 556	17 110	9 350	23 259	12 069	4 271	84 390

 $[\]ensuremath{\mathrm{1/\,Wholesale}}$ energy as delivered by Eskom to the various provinces. $\ensuremath{\mathrm{2/\,Preliminary}}.$

Explanatory Notes

1

Introduction

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.

- 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.
- 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 4 survey

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 5 survey

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 *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.

Response rate 7

The response rate for the survey on electricity generated and available for distribution for May 2009 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

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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.

The survey is conducted by mail each month collecting information from a sample of 22 electricity undertakings or establishments.

Monthly production indices

The calculation of the monthly production indices is based on the number of electricity units produced.

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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.

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 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

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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 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.

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

Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from Stats SA -

- Bulletin of Statistics.
- SA Statistics.

Unpublished 17 statistics

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

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

 ${\it Stats SA pre-release policy may be inspected at its website, www.statssa.gov.za.}\\$

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 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

General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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