



**stats sa**

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Media statement**

**Embargo: Thursday 2 September 2021, 11:00**

## **Electricity, gas and water supply industry, 2019**

### **Income has gone up, but capital expenditure has fallen**

Total income in 2019 (R291,6 billion) increased by R49,6 billion over the income reported in 2016 (R242,0 billion), which is an annual growth rate of 6,4%. Large increases were reported for 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' (+R37,6 billion) and 'collection, purification and distribution of water' (+R10,1 billion).

Capital expenditure on new assets in 2019 (R49,7 billion) represents a decrease of 33,8% compared with expenditure reported in 2016 (R75,0 billion). The biggest decrease was reported in 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity', which fell by R24,6 billion.

### **Profit margins have declined**

The profit margin for the industry in 2019 was -3,9%, the lowest since 2010. This was mainly because the 'generation, transmission and distribution of electricity' had a negative profit margin of -9,3% due to significant increased spending on 'interest' and 'depreciation and amortisation'. The 'manufacturing and distribution of gaseous fuels through mains' reported the highest profit margin in 2019 (21,3%).

### **The industry is employing fewer people**

The total number of persons employed decreased by 3,4% between 2016 (57 784) and 2019 (55 796). Earlier, there was a huge increase of 21,7% in employment between 2006 (42 117) and 2010 (51 237).

### **Less electricity generated in 2019 compared with 2010 and 2013**

Although 'electricity generated' increased by 3,7% between 2016 (226 507 GWh) and 2019 (234 783 GWh), these levels were still lower than in 2013 (244 364 GWh) and 2010 (239 474 GWh).

**Coal still dominant despite significant increase in renewable electricity**

South Africa's energy mix in 2019 was still dominated by electricity generated from coal (87,2%), a decrease from 88,8% in 2016. However, the contribution to electricity generated from renewables more than doubled from 2,2% in 2016 to 4,9% in 2019.

## Media enquiries:

Trevor Oosterwyk

Chief Director: Communications

trevoro@statssa.gov.za

012 310 4687 / 082 908 9104

## Technical enquiries:

Itani Magwaba

Chief Director: Structural Industry Statistics

itanim@statssa.gov.za

012 3337 6254 / 082 905 5143