04 July 2025

MINERALS COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA

Electricity Update: **May to June 2025**

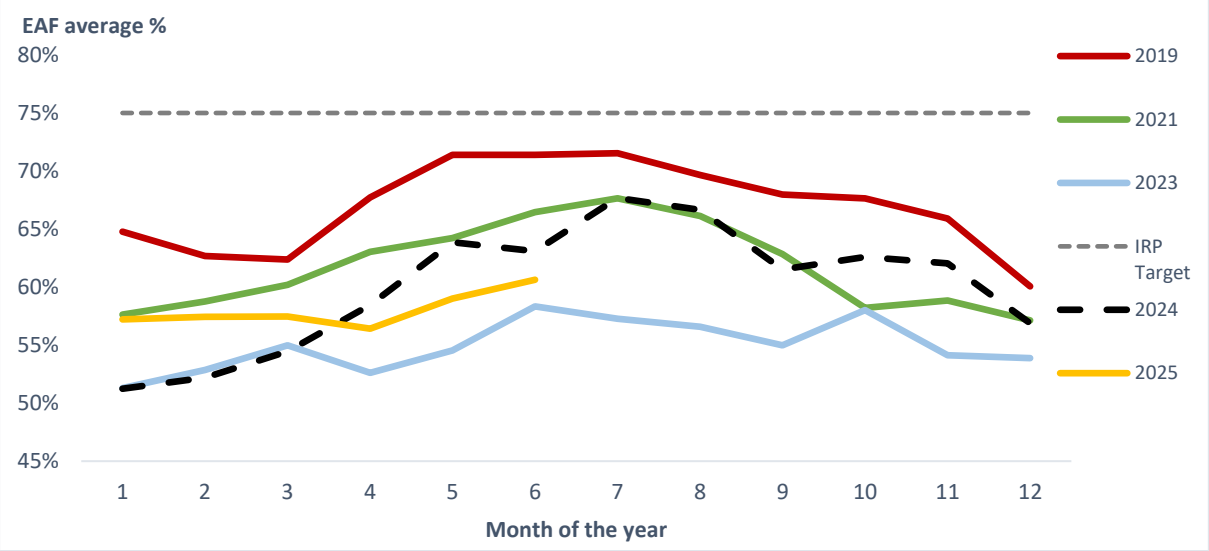
Metric	May	June	Unit
Energy Availability Factor (EAF)	59.0%	60.6%	Percentage
Loadshedding (all stages)	18	0	Hours
Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) Usage			Megawatt-Hours
- Average	238	258	
- Maximum	1,804	1,894	
Planned Maintenance (average)	5,383	3,798	Megawatts
Unplanned Maintenance/Outages (average)	13,563	14,651	
Other Maintenance (average)	223	245	
- Total	19,170	18,694	

Source: Eskom & Minerals Council SA

Eskom's Energy Availability Factor (EAF) further improved in June, averaging 60.6%[1]. This marks the first time this year that the EAF has exceeded 60% for a full month. That said, the EAF does tend to increase during this time of the year as Eskom cuts down on planned maintenance and boosts dispatchable generation capacity for winter.

Despite the system remaining under pressure, there was no loadshedding during June. In the first week of the month, amidst a cold front, Eskom strategically returned approximately 2,500 MW of generation capacity in anticipation of increased electricity demand from households. Throughout June, Eskom also reduced planned maintenance but did experience some setbacks, with additional unplanned outages totalling around 1,000 MW. Critically, emergency reserves were kept sufficient and deployed strategically to balance the system, which was under pressure due to colder weather and increased demand.

Figure 1: Historical Eskom EAF



Source: Eskom & Minerals Council SA

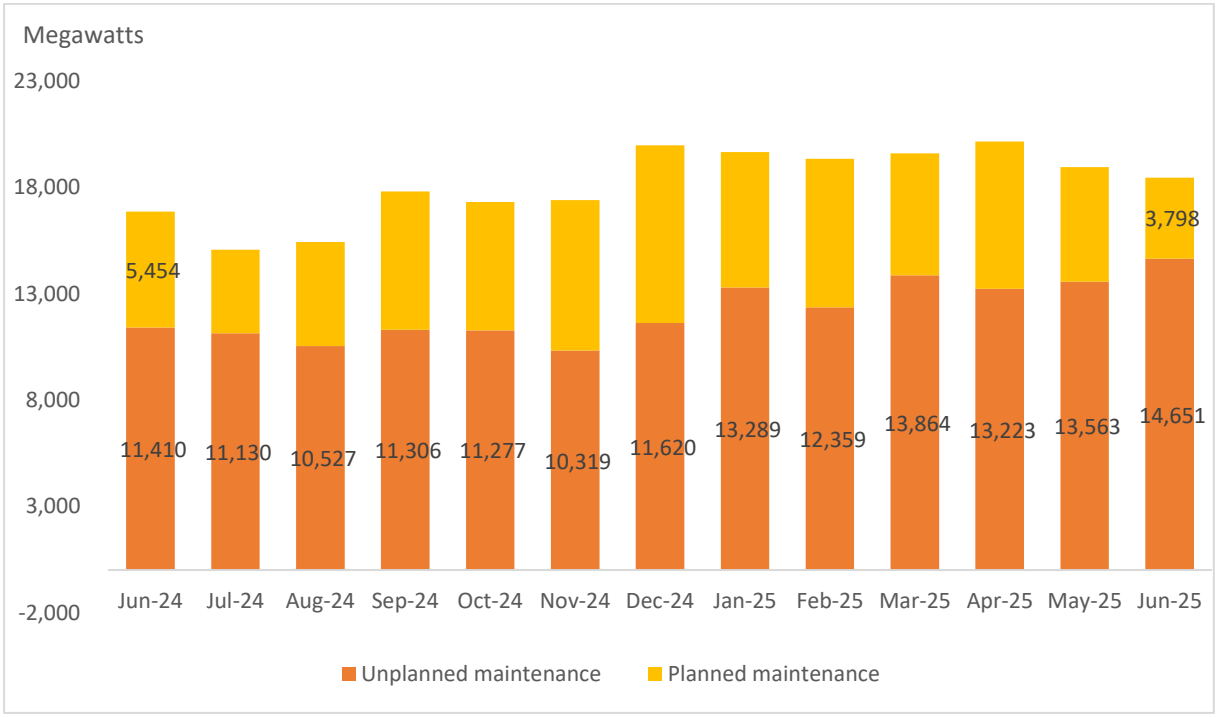
[1] The EAF in June ranged from a minimum of 53.9% and a maximum of 65.2%.

T +27 11 498 7100 E info@mineralscouncil.org.za W www.mineralscouncil.org.za
7th Floor, Rosebank Towers, 19 Biermann Avenue, Rosebank, 2196

While the EAF for 2025 remains well above 2023 levels, it is still lower than the figures recorded last year, a period when South Africa experienced nine months without loadshedding. This trend is partly influenced by maintenance activities.

In June, unplanned outages (breakdowns) saw an uptick, averaging nearly 14,700 MW. This is almost 1,000 MW more than in May 2025 and, more notably, over 3,000 MW higher than the same period last year. This average is particularly noteworthy as Eskom previously said that to prevent loadshedding, unplanned outages would need to remain below 15,000 MW. Exceeding this 15,000 MW level would force the implementation of Stage 1 or 2 loadshedding. Conversely, planned maintenance experienced a significant decline of approximately 1,500 MW. This reduction in planned maintenance largely contributed to the improved EAF, as it made more generation capacity available for electricity supply.

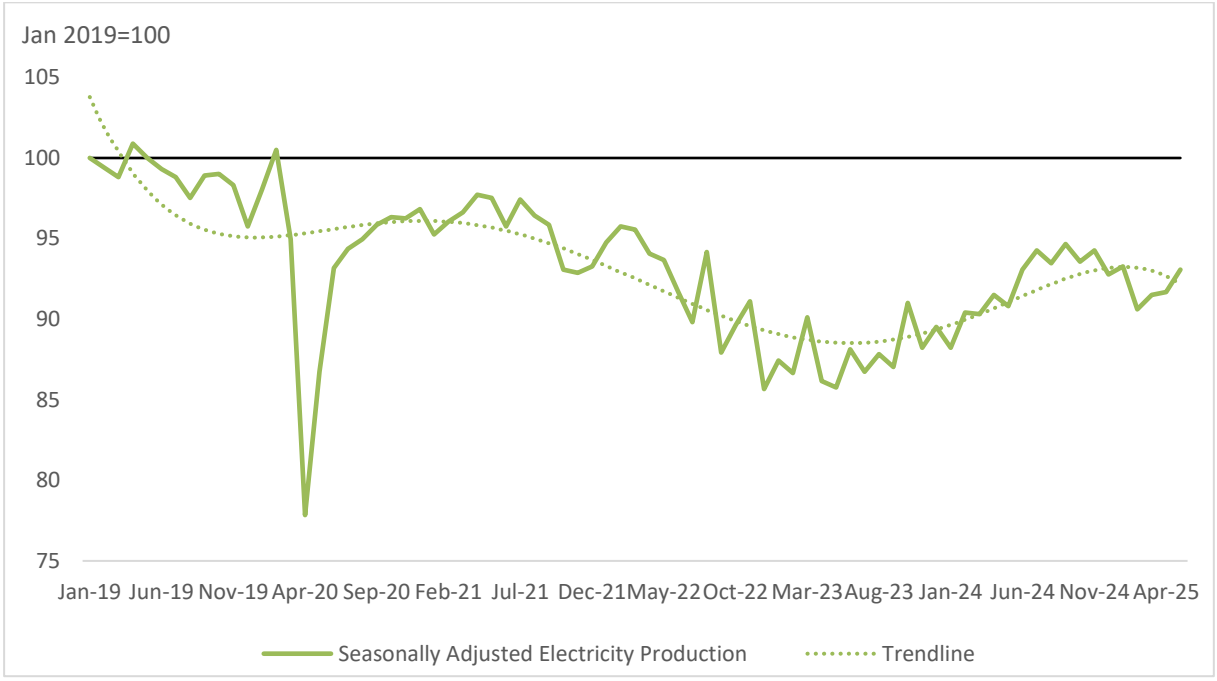
Figure 2: Eskom Unplanned Maintenance (outages) & Planned Maintenance



Source: Eskom & Minerals Council SA

The chart below illustrates the trend in electricity production by all suppliers in South Africa. While overall output remains below January 2019 levels, electricity production has shown a clear upward trend beginning in early 2024.
Focusing on Eskom's output, it is believed, the utility has now reached its peak level of production, with only marginal increases expected in the coming months. On average, Eskom is currently producing around 16,800 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity per month. This compares to 17,100 GWh per month last year and a peak of 19,000 GWh per month in 2019. While we are still some way off 2019's production, we anticipate the utility could reach levels just above 17,000 GWh on average for the rest of the year, with a likely spike in July and August due to increased winter demand.

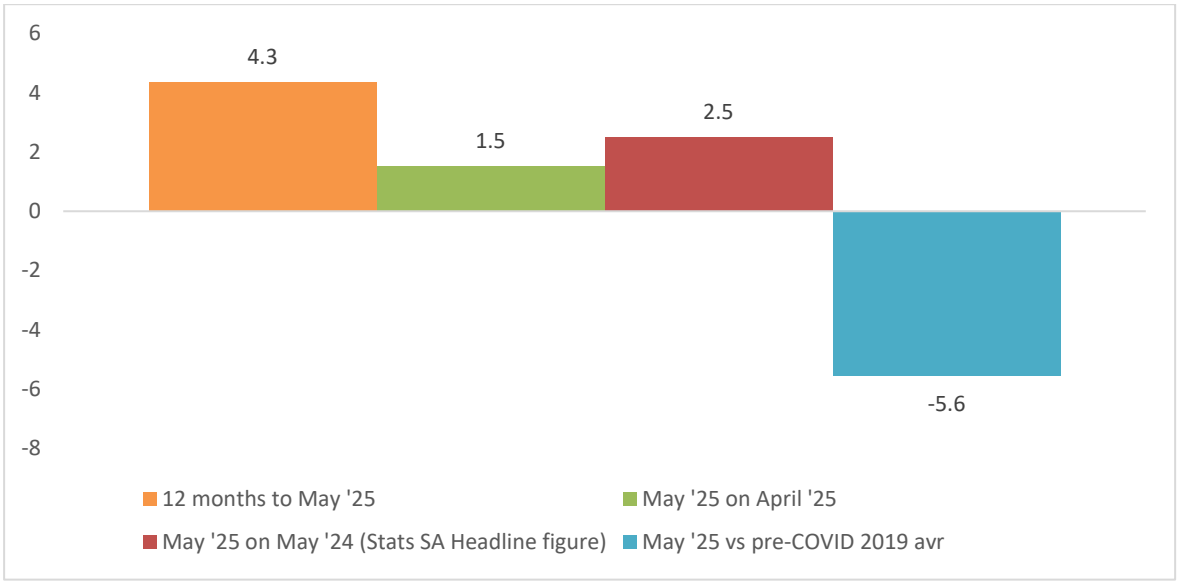
Figure 3: Physical volume of electricity production – All Producers



Source: Stats SA and Minerals Council SA

Data released by Stats SA on July 3rd indicates that seasonally adjusted real electricity generation increased by 2.5% year-on-year (y-o-y) and 1.5% month-on-month (m-o-m). As anticipated, based on the EAF data for May, electricity generation saw a welcome increase during the month. However, despite this growth, overall electricity production remains 5.6% below pre-COVID-19 levels.

Figure 4: Variation in Electricity Produced (%, seasonally adjusted) – All Producers



Source: Stats SA and Minerals Council SA

Conclusion

South Africa's electricity sector has shown a clear upward trajectory since early 2024, with Eskom's Energy Availability Factor notably improving and reaching over 60% in June 2025 –

a significant milestone for the year. This improved performance, combined with strategic capacity returns and diligent management of emergency reserves, successfully averted loadshedding during June, despite heightened winter demand.

While the current EAF is a positive step up from 2023, it still lags behind 2024's figures, a year characterised by extended periods of loadshedding-free supply. The recent uptick in unplanned outages, nearing Eskom's 15,000 MW threshold for loadshedding, underscores the persistent fragility of the system. This trend will require close monitoring, especially as we move deeper into the high-demand winter months of July and August. Eskom's Winter Outlook, published on May 5, 2025, remains valid, indicating that loadshedding will not be necessary if unplanned outages remain below 13,000 MW. Should outages rise to 15,000 MW, loadshedding would be limited to a maximum of 21 days out of 153 days and restricted to Stage 2.

Looking ahead, Eskom appears to be operating near its current peak production level. Although average monthly output will likely hover just above 17,000 GWh for the remainder of the year, a substantial recovery to 2019 levels of over 19,000 GWh remains a distant prospect. Sustained system stability will depend on minimising unplanned breakdowns.

André Lourens
Economist
Tel: +27 11 498 7100
Cell: +27 73 614 6161
Email: **ALOURENS@MINERALSCOUNCIL.ORG.ZA**

- End -