

Electricity Update: **June to July 2025**

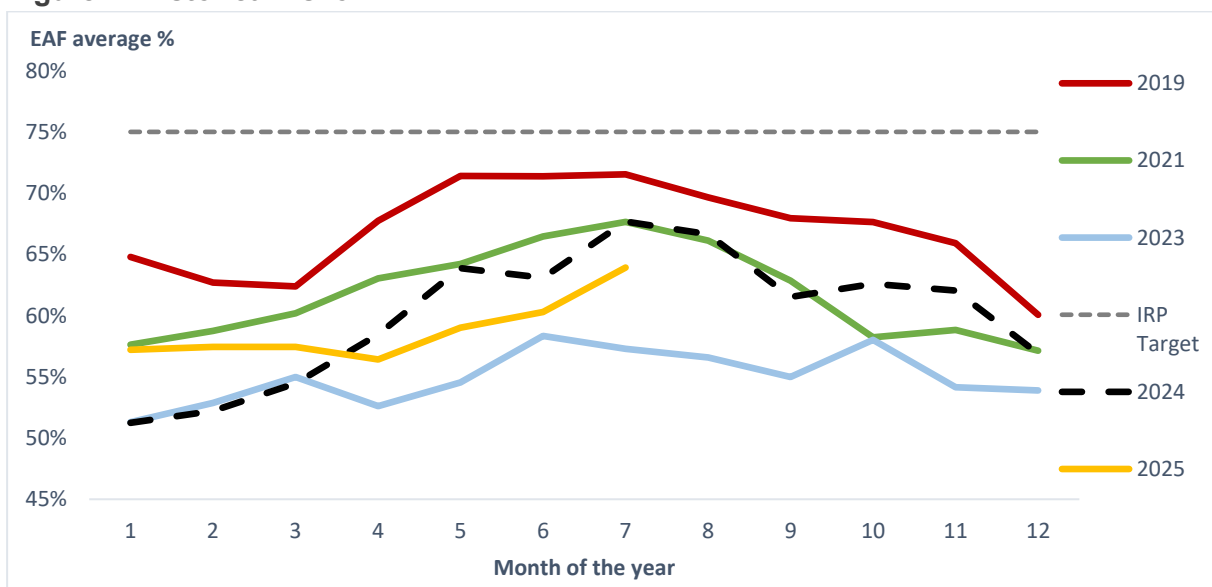
Metric	June	July	Unit
Energy Availability Factor (EAF)	60.3%	63.9%	Percentage
Loadshedding (all stages)	0	0	Hours
Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) Usage			Megawatt-Hours
- Average	258	152	
- Maximum	1,894	1,936	
Planned Maintenance (average)	3,823	4,565	Megawatts
Unplanned Maintenance/Outages (average)	14,791	12,156	
Other Maintenance (average)	246	203	
- Total	18,859	16,925	

Source: Eskom & Minerals Council

The Energy Availability Factor (EAF) increased by 3.6 percentage points in June, reaching 63.9%. This improvement is primarily due to Eskom restoring generation capacity, including the return of Medupi Unit 4 (800 MW) on 6 July 2025, and a reduction in unplanned maintenance of approximately 2,600 MW in July compared to June.

There are 24 days remaining in Eskom's Winter Outlook period, which ends on 31 August 2025, and the utility has stated it is adequately prepared to meet the increased electricity demand for the remainder of the winter season. However, Eskom's ability to maintain supply is partly dependent on its continued use of Open Cycle Gas Turbines (OCGTs) to manage peak demand. Between 1 April and 24 July, Eskom spent R5.616 billion on fuel for its OCGT plants. This reflects a higher reliance on OCGTs compared to the same period last year.

For context, Eskom's total OCGT fuel expenditure for the previous financial year (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025) was R11.432 billion. Four months into the current financial year, Eskom has already reached nearly 50% of last year's diesel spend.

Figure 1: Historical Eskom EAF

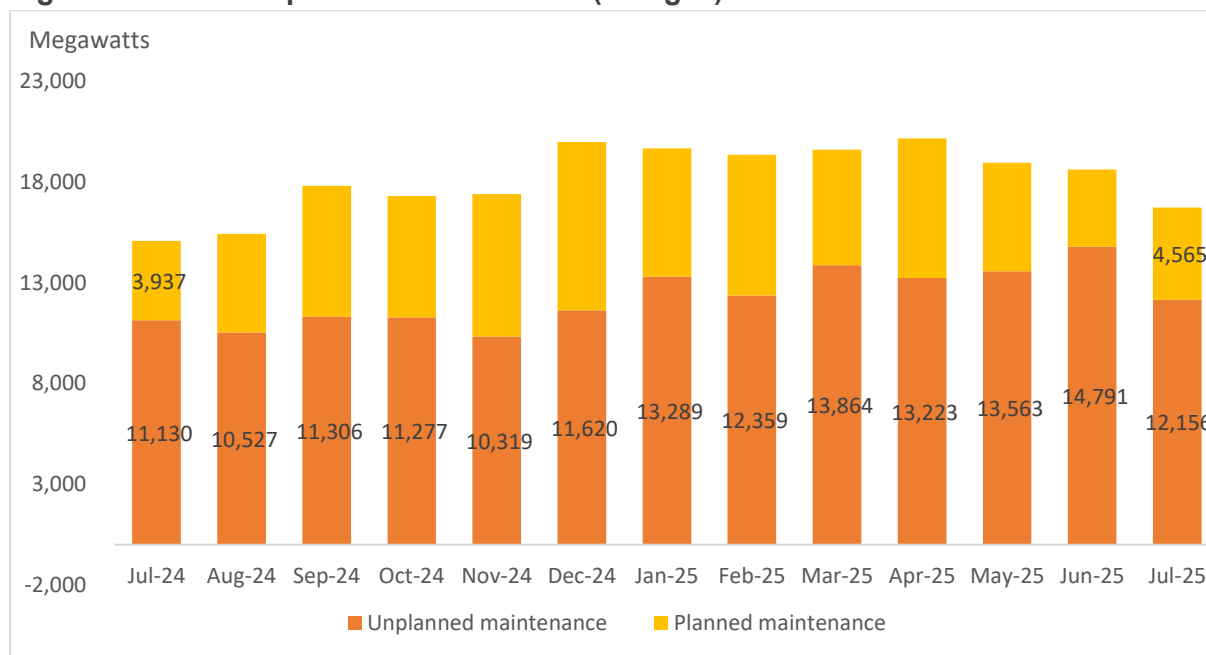
Source: Eskom & Minerals Council

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The EAF improved in July 2025 and is now tracking more closely with the 2024 trend. However, it typically declines after the winter period as electricity demand decreases, allowing Eskom to ramp up its planned maintenance activities.

In July, Eskom recorded a notable reduction in breakdowns compared to June. Unplanned outages averaged approximately 12,200 MW, down from 14,800 MW in June - a decrease of 2,600 MW. While planned maintenance increased slightly by around 750 MW, the overall reduction in offline capacity contributed positively to the EAF. Peak electricity demand for the month reached 31,153 MW, while peak dispatchable generation stood at 30,670 MW. Importantly, no loadshedding occurred during July, reflecting improved system stability.

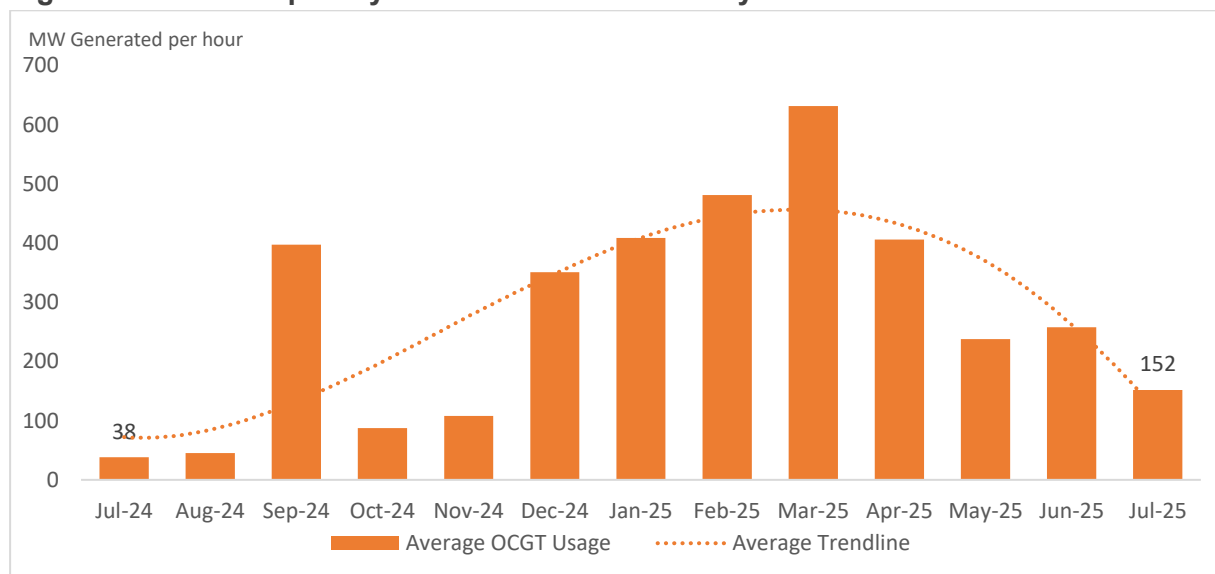
Figure 2: Eskom Unplanned Maintenance (outages) & Planned Maintenance



Source: Eskom & Minerals Council

The chart below illustrates the trend in Eskom's OCGT generation. Eskom has confirmed that diesel expenditure remains within budget for the first four months of the financial year. Although OCGT usage declined in July compared to June, it remains elevated relative to the same period in 2024. Both the OCGT load factor (indicating frequency of use) and the volume of electricity generated were higher than in July last year.

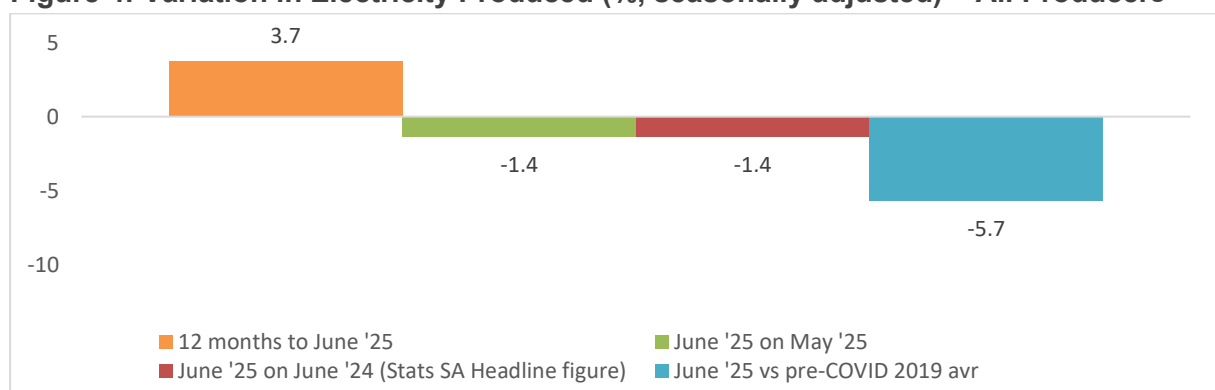
Figure 3: Eskom - Open Cycle Gas Turbine Electricity Generation



Source: Stats SA and Minerals Council

Data released by Stats SA on 7 August shows that seasonally adjusted real electricity generation declined by 1.4% year-on-year (y-o-y) and 1.4% month-on-month (m-o-m). Given that the EAF remained flat in June compared to May 2025 and was lower than in June 2024, this decline in generation is consistent with expectations. Overall, electricity generation and consumption volumes were higher in the second quarter of 2025, suggesting that the sector likely made a positive contribution to real GDP growth. Official GDP figures for the quarter are expected to be released in September 2025. Notably, total electricity production remains 5.7% below pre-COVID-19 levels, highlighting the ongoing challenges in restoring generation capacity to historical norms.

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



Source: Stats SA and Minerals Council

Conclusion

The data from June and July 2025 reflects a period of relative stability and improvement in Eskom's operational performance. The rise in the Energy Availability Factor (EAF), absence of loadshedding, and reduction in unplanned outages all point to a more resilient system heading into the final stretch of the winter period. While reliance on Open Cycle Gas Turbines (OCGTs) remains elevated, Eskom has managed to keep diesel expenditure within budget.

However, this progress is tempered by setbacks in Eskom's nuclear fleet. On 15 July 2025, Eskom confirmed further delays in the return to service of Koeberg Unit 1 due to cracks found in the tubing of two of the three newly installed steam generators. Additionally, Koeberg Unit 2 will need to shut down again before its nuclear operating licence expires on 9 November 2025 to complete post-replacement testing - raising concerns about the integrity of its newly installed steam generators.

Looking ahead, the sector's stronger generation and consumption volumes in the second quarter of 2025 suggest a likely positive contribution to GDP, though challenges remain in restoring production to pre-COVID-19 levels.

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