The electricity sales composite index (ESCI), consisting of domestic and export sales of electricity, has remained largely unchanged over the past year, cycling around the trend index level of 115 points.

During May 2014, the index stood at 118 points, a month on month decline of one point, or 0.8 percent, while year on year the index is up two points, or 1.7 percent.

Electricity sales figures remain largely unchanged, down just 0.2 percent month on month, but up 1.8 percent year on year. In May, total sales of 257,777 mega-watt hours were recorded.

With respect to subsector’s performance, the domestic electricity sales index level of 120 points for May 2014 is marginally below the previous months level, but marginally above the level recorded a year ago in May 2013.

Domestic electricity sales are mainly driven by sales to distributors and mining, recording 183,149 mega-watt hours and 52,496 mega-watt hours in volume terms, respectively.

The export index in May 2014 stood at 48, m/m the index declined by 5 index points whereas y/y the index declined by 50 per cent. In volume terms the export sales was estimated at 3,126 mega-watt hours in May 2014.

Going forward, as winter approaches electricity demand can be expected to rise both from wholesale and retail electricity users. Electricity imports can be expected to remain high or increase, while exports are likely to remain low. Industry demand for electricity can be expected to remain strong for the foreseeable future, as high growth in various sectors of the economy, notably mining, fishing, construction and wholesale and retail trade, underlie increasing electricity requirements in the country.

The Electricity and Water sector contributes N$ 2.396 million to the total Gross domestic product. This represent about 2 per cent to Gross Domestic product. In 2013, the Electricity and water subsector recorded negative real growth of 0.7 per cent.