

Historic electricity prices in Australia repository

This repository provides extracts from the annual statistics published by the ESAA (originally the Electricity Supply Association of Australia, but from 2005 the Energy Supply Association of Australia). All statistics with the exception of 1993 and post 2015 were accessed at the State Library of New South Wales.

The statistics included are the number of ultimate consumers, the annual consumption and the income from that consumption (from 1953 to 1998). This data is (inconsistently) reported by jurisdiction and consumer type. The repository also includes an Excel workbook that includes this data transcribed for the category of residential consumers and total of all consumers together with calculations of average prices, additional data on prices from the 200 to 2004 ESAA reports and some other price data and indices used to construct a set of historic price data nationally for residential and non-residential consumers, and nationally for non-residential consumers.

1. 1949-1967 as *Statistics of the electricity supply industry in Australia* (each being named for a financial year, starting at 1948-49)

From the first issue the number of customers by type and consumption by type of customer is included for each State and the Commonwealth Territories (in aggregate including PNG). Revenue from sale of electricity first appears in the 1951-52 report, but is not disaggregated for all jurisdictions. For this and the following report the relevant data for customer numbers, consumption and revenue appears as Tables 5, 6 and 7.

The data for 1951-52 shows great inconsistency with the immediate following years and so our analysis begins in FY1953, 2 years earlier than Brady (1996). 1962-63 is the first year where all jurisdictions divide revenue between at least residential and other customers. Also in 1962-63 the ACT is first reported separately from other territories, while the NT is first separated from PNG in 1968-69. National totals include PNG up to 1974-75).

2. 1968-1986 as *The Electricity supply industry in Australia* (each being named for a financial year, starting at 1967-68)

For this period the data is still presented in the reports as Tables 5, 6 and 7.

3. 1988-2004 as *Electricity Australia ... : the electricity supply industry in Australia year* (each volume named with a year and include the previous financial year's statistic starting at 1988 with the 1986-87 statistics)

The reporting retains the same table structure up to and including the 1997 report. From then on the data is reported as tables 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 in section 4 Distribution. From 1999 NSW and the ACT are reported on together reflecting the NEM regions. Revenue details were last published in 1998, from the following year the report provides average retail prices for each jurisdiction broken into residential, business and total. The average price data has been included in the PDF file.

4. 2005-2020 as *Electricity Gas Australia (ESAA 2005-2020)* (Same reporting structure as Electricity Australia)

Includes State and Territory breakdown of customer numbers and consumption by Residential and Business. Includes no retail price data. From 2005 to 2015 these were still published but included a CD of data. From 2016-2020 it has been published electronically.

The scanned pages from 1949 to 2014 are presented in the PDF file *ESAA Stats 1949-2014*, there is a bookmark for the start of each year (there are at most three pages for any year). The electronically published data for 2015-2019 are presented in the .zip file *ESAA Stats 2015-2019*.

The transcribed data and other source data for the analysis is presented in the Excel workbook *Data*. The tab colours indicate what data is available. In particular, the purple tabs are years for which there is data in the ESAA statistics that have not been transcribed. Hopefully, these files will be updated as more transcription occurs (users of the files in the repository are welcome to contribute to the transcription effort).

The analysis of the data and the generation of the composite historic price datasets occurs in the Excel workbook *Analysis*. Tab F provides the historic price datasets in 2020 dollars, these can be extended using the relevant ABS index numbers.

Papers explaining this work have been submitted to *Economic Analysis and Policy* and *Data in Brief*.

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