

Energy Sector

Slovenian Economic Mirror

IMAD

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Selected indicators, growth rates in %	Q IV 2002, GWh	Q IV 2003, GWh	Q IV 2003/ Q IV 2002, %	Jan-Dec 2002, GWh	Jan-Dec 2003, GWh	Jan-Dec 03/ Jan-Dec 02, %
Production of electricity	3,690	3,234	-12.4	13,032	12,253	-6.0
Prod. in hydroelectric plants	1,015	817	-19.4	3,001	2,685	-10.5
Prod. in thermal plants	1,200	999	-16.8	4,728	4,612	-2.5
Prod. in nuclear power plant	1,475	1,418	-3.9	5,302	4,956	-6.5
Consumption of electricity	3,107	3,218	3.6	11,831	12,376	4.6
Through distribution network	2,350	2,448	4.2	9,002	9,358	3.9
Direct consumers	689	704	2.2	2,571	2,764	7.5
Net electricity exports	583	16	-97.3	1,201	-123	n. s.

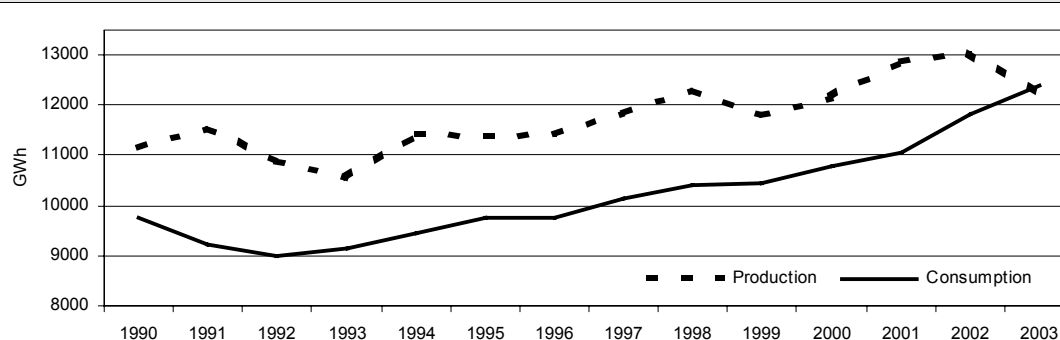
Source of data: ELES, Electricity Balance for September, additional calculations by the IMAD.

In the **last quarter** of 2003, **electricity production** fell by 12.4% compared to the same period the year before, while electricity consumption increased by 3.6%. Excess production over consumption declined from 15.8% of production in the final quarter of 2002 to just 0.5% in the last quarter of last year. Electricity **production** fell in all types of power plants, mostly in hydro-electric generation, going down by 19.4%. Production fell somewhat less in thermal power plants, down 16.8%, but by a similar amount of about 200 GWh, while production declined the least in the nuclear power plant, down 3.9%. Growth in the electricity **consumption** of direct consumers eased off to 2.2%, while consumption from the distribution network increased by 4.2%. **Net electricity exports** fell by 567 GWh, roughly equalling production of the Drava river hydro-electric power plants in the last quarter, as a result of negative trends in electricity generation and consumption.

After being a net electricity importer in 1964-1981, Slovenia became a net electricity exporter in 1982 following construction of the nuclear power plant; Slovenia remained an exporter up until 2003 when consumption again outstripped production (also see graph). Electricity **production** fell by 6.0% in **2003** over the year before. Production in hydro-electric power plants dropped the most, down 10.5%, as a result of dry weather, and it was as much as 20.5% below the level planned in the electricity production-consumption balance. Hydrologic conditions deteriorated further in 2003 from the year before. Production in the nuclear power plant fell by 6.5% and was 0.5% below the planned level because production was limited for ecological reasons following the low water levels of the Sava river, which are used as a coolant. Production in thermal power plants did not offset shortfalls in hydro-electricity as it declined by 2.5%, even though it was 12.3% above the planned level. On the other hand, electricity **consumption** increased by 4.6%. Direct consumers used 7.5% and distribution network consumers 3.9% more electricity than in 2002. Growth in electricity consumption was 2.7 percentage points higher than projected by the draft National Energy Programme for 2000-2010, where 1.9% average annual growth was foreseen. The favourable ratio of production to consumption began to be severely undermined in 2002, when consumption was up 6.9% (partly due to expansion of the energy-intensive industry) and production rose by just 1.0%. While Slovenia was still a net electricity exporter in 2001, with exports representing 14.2% of domestic electricity production, exports declined to 9.2% of national electricity production in 2002, and Slovenia became a **net importer** of electricity in 2003, equalling 1.0% of consumption. Slovenia should actively keep electricity consumption growth in check in order to prevent self-sufficiency in electricity supply from reducing further, while significant investment will also be necessary in new production facilities.

Twelve of the fifteen **EU** members were net electricity importers in 2002. Imports met less than 10% of electricity consumption in eight members, about 15% in three members (Finland, the Netherlands and Italy) and as much as 60% in Luxembourg. What stood out in the EU were Italy's large electricity imports and the even larger exports of France.

Graph: **Electricity production and consumption in Slovenia in 1990-2003**



Source of data: ELES, Elektroenergetska situacija (Electric energy report), various issues.