



Index of Water Production Statistics

First Quarter 2026

Stats Brief

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Preface

The Index of Water Production (IWP) is a statistical publication that measures short-term changes in water production in Botswana. The publication provides timely and reliable statistics to monitor the performance of the water sector and supports evidence-based policy formulation, planning, and decision-making. It contributes to monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG Indicator 6.4.2 (Level of Water Stress), the African Union Agenda 2063 aspirations on sustainable water resource management, and Botswana's National Development Plan 12 priorities on water security, reliable water supply, and sustainable management of water resources.

This statistical release presents quarterly Indices of Water Production (IWP) for the period, first quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2026. Also included in the report are the annual Indices of Water Production (IWP) for the period 2018 to 2025, derived as the average of the four quarters for each year.

The data presented in this publication are administrative data obtained from the Water Utilities Corporation (WUC). The base year is 2025.

The Index of Water Production stood at 98.5 in the first quarter of 2026 compared to 98.8 registered in the corresponding quarter of 2025, showing a year-on-year decline of 0.3 percent. On a quarter-on-quarter comparison, the index declined by 0.6 percent compared to 3.5 decline recorded during the fourth quarter of 2025.

For more information, contact the Directorate of Stakeholder Relations on (+267) 3671300. All Statistics Botswana outputs/publications are available on the website at www.statsbots.org.bw and at the Statistics Botswana Information Resource Centre.

I sincerely thank all stakeholders involved in the formulation of this brief, for their continued support, as we strive to better serve users of Statistics Botswana products and services.



Dr. Lucky Mokgatihe
Acting Statistician General.
August 2026

1.0 Introduction

The Index of Water Production (IWP) is an important short-term economic indicator that measures changes in the volume of water produced over time. It provides valuable information on the performance of Botswana's water supply industry and serves as an indicator of the country's ability to meet the growing demand for water from households, businesses and key economic sectors.

Water is a critical resource underpinning Botswana's socio-economic development. It is indispensable to a wide range of economic activities, including industrial production, mining, agriculture, manufacturing and construction, while also supporting the delivery of essential public services. Ensuring the sustainable availability, efficient management and equitable access to water is therefore fundamental to the country's economic growth, social well-being and long-term development. Given Botswana's semi-arid climate, recurrent droughts, variable rainfall and increasing demand for water, monitoring trends in water production is essential for ensuring sustainable water management and long-term economic growth.

The IWP provides policymakers, planners and other stakeholders with timely information on changes in water production capacity and supply. The index helps assess whether existing water infrastructure is sufficient to meet current and future demand, while also providing evidence to guide investments in dams, water treatment plants, pipelines, groundwater development and other water supply infrastructure. It also supports the evaluation of water conservation initiatives and strategies aimed at improving national water security.

In addition to supporting water resource planning, the IWP contributes to the compilation of Botswana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by providing short-term indicators of activity within the water supply industry. Together with other industrial production indices, it enhances the monitoring of economic performance and provides early signals of changes in economic activity.

The index also has an important social dimension. Reliable water production is fundamental to improving access to safe drinking water, sanitation, public health and overall quality of life. By identifying trends in water supply, the IWP helps inform policies and programmes aimed at improving service delivery, particularly in communities vulnerable to water shortages.

As part of Statistics Botswana's programme to strengthen short-term economic statistics, the Index of Water Production provides timely, reliable and internationally comparable information that supports evidence-based policymaking, sustainable resource management and informed decision-making. It is therefore an important indicator for monitoring Botswana's progress towards sustainable economic development and improved national well-being.

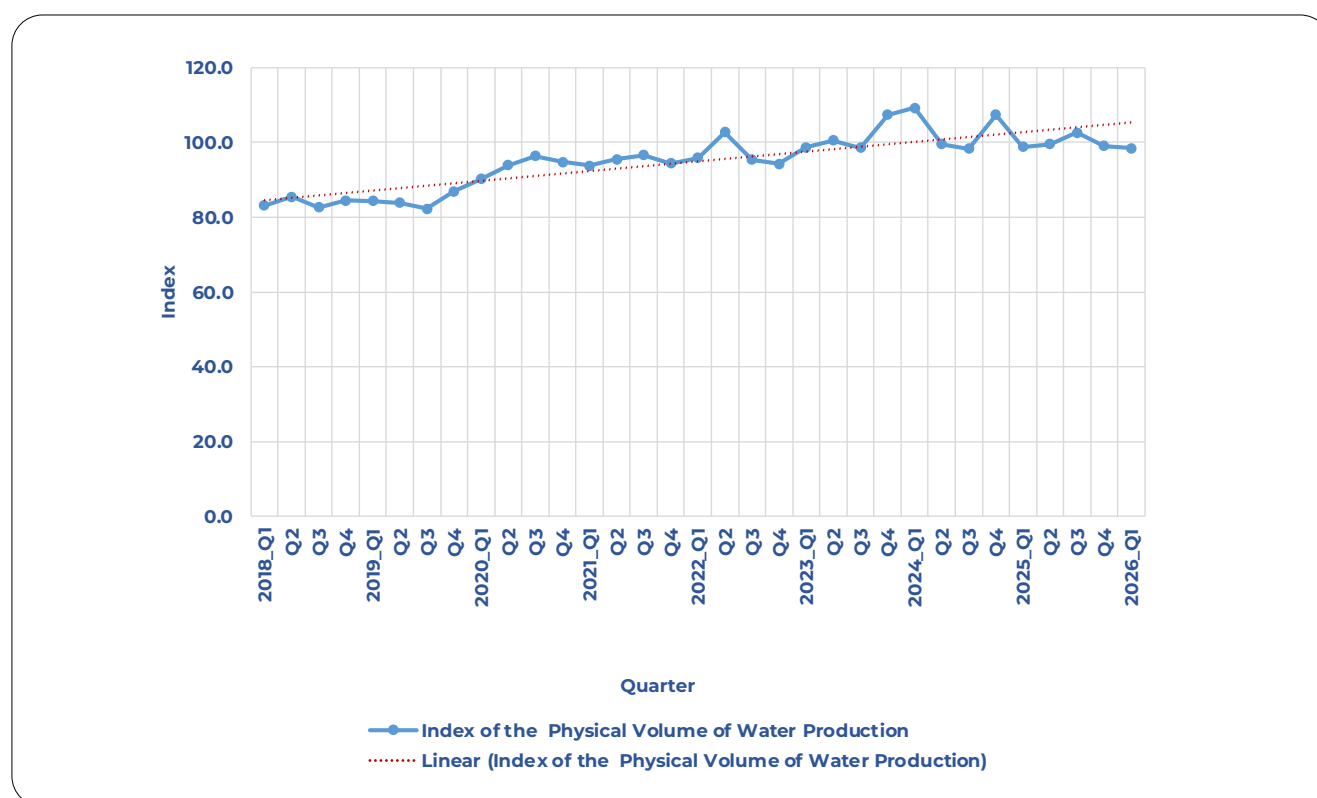
2.0 Summary of Findings

The Index of Water Production (IWP) stood at 98.5 in the first quarter of 2026, representing a 0.3 percent decrease from 98.8 recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2025. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2025, the index declined by 0.6 percent, from 99.1 to 98.5.

A comprehensive overview of key Water Production indicators covering the period from the first quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2026 is presented in **Table 1**.

Figure 1 below presents the trend of the Index of Water Production from first quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2026. The trend shows an increase in water production capacity during the years.

Figure 1: Index of the Physical Volume of Water Production: Q1 2018 - Q1 2026



The graph indicates a clear overall upward trend in the Index of the Physical Volume of Water Production. The index increased from approximately 82 during the first quarter of 2018 to 98.5 by 2026 Q1, representing a broad improvement of roughly 20 percent over the period. Although the series shows considerable quarter-to-quarter volatility, the positive linear trend confirms a sustained long-term increase in the physical volume of water production.

2.1 Water Production by Regions

This section discusses water production by regions as presented in **Table 2**. The physical volume of water production is presented in **Table 3**, which forms the basis for the computation of indices of water production in **Table 4**.

The Year-on-Year and Quarter-on-Quarter percentage changes in the physical volume of water production are presented in **Table 5** and **Table 6** respectively, covering 2018 to the first quarter of 2026.

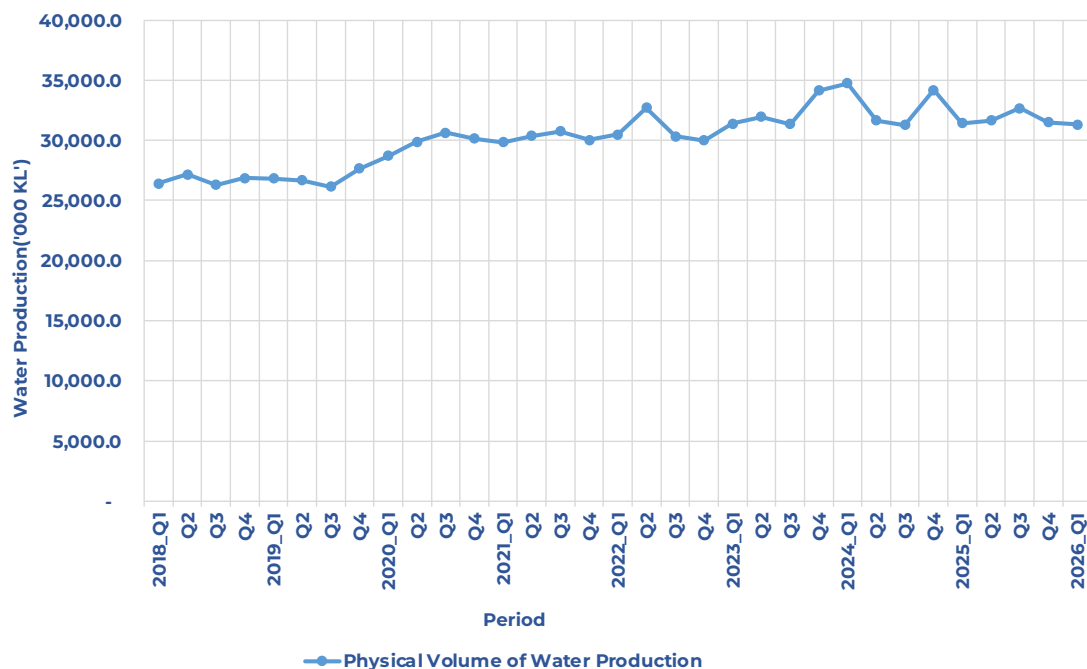
The physical volume of water production during this quarter decreased by 0.6 percent (31,333,459 KL), from 31,511,986 KL realised in the fourth quarter of 2025 (as shown in table 3).

2.2 Percentage Contribution of each region to total Water Production in Q1 2026

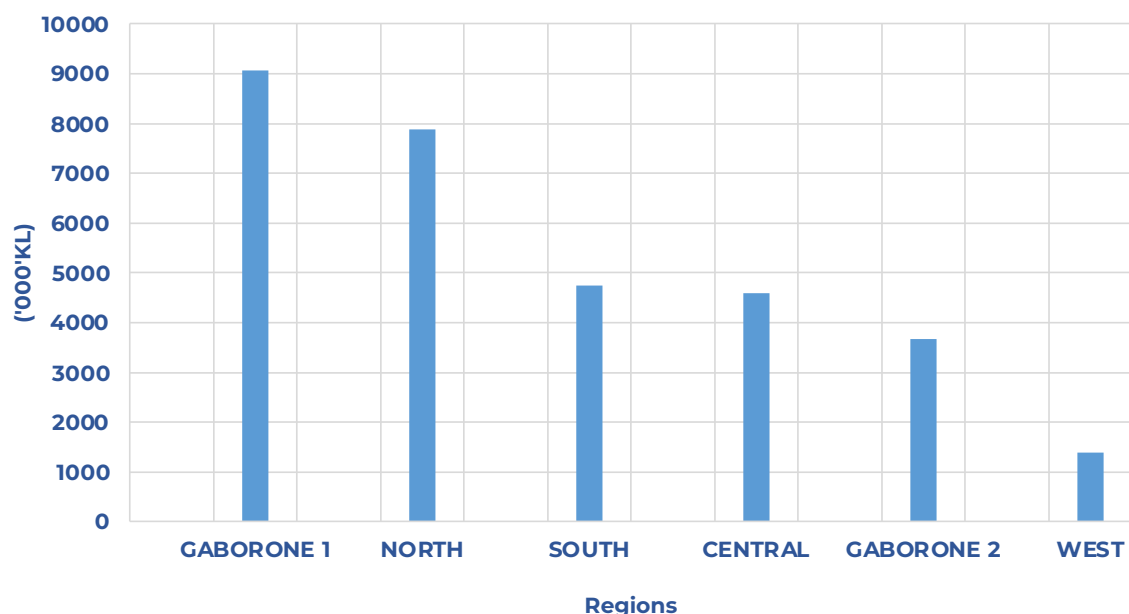
In the first quarter of 2026, water production was predominantly concentrated in two regions. Gaborone 1, comprising Gaborone, MRT—Mogoditshane, Ramotswa, and Tlokweng, accounted for 28.9 percent of total national water production, with a recorded output of 9,062,247 kilolitres (KL). The North region (comprising Francistown, Selebi-Phikwe, Masunga, Tutume, and Kasane) contributed 25.1 percent, with a total production of 7,875,598 KL. Together, these two regions produced 54.0 percent of the country's total water production during the quarter, highlighting their significant contribution to national water supply (as shown in table 2)

The Western region, which comprises the Maun and Gumare business centres, recorded the lowest contribution to national water production in the first quarter of 2026. The region produced 1,385,061 KL, accounting for 4.4 percent of the total water production (as shown in table 2).

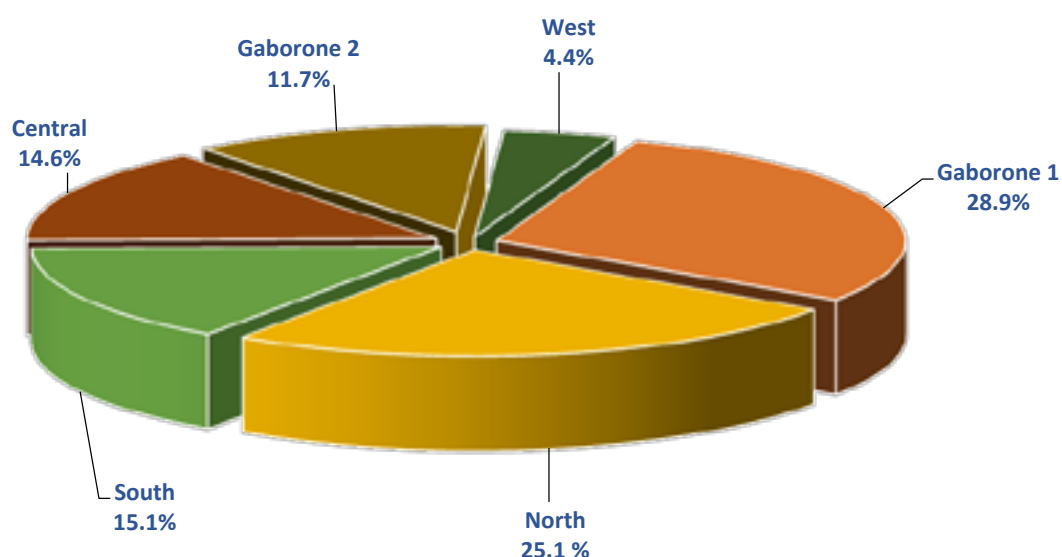
Figure 2: Physical Volume of Water Production ('000KL): Q1 2018- Q1 2026



Overall, **Figure 2** above shows water production increased from roughly 26,000 000 KL in the first quarter of 2018 to 31,333, 459 KL during the reporting period, indicating a moderate long-term growth of approximately 20 percent, despite periodic increases and declines. The graph suggests a generally expanding production capacity with some short-term volatility, particularly from 2022 onward.

Figure 3: Water Production by Regions in ('000'KL): Q1 2026

From **Figure 3** above, it shows that Gaborone 1 region recorded the highest water production during the first quarter of 2026, producing 9, 062,247 KL of water. This was followed by North region, which produced 7,875,598 KL. The South and Central regions ranked third and fourth, with water production volumes of 4,742,739 KL and 4,586,719 KL, respectively.

Figure 4: Percentage Contribution of each region to total Water Production in Q1 2026

The Gaborone 1 Region (Gaborone, Mogoditshane, Ramotswa and Tlokweng) and the North Region (Francistown, Selebi-Phikwe, Masunga, Tutume and Kasane) were the leading contributors to total water production during the period under review, accounting for 28.9 percent (9, 062,247 KL) and 25.1 percentage (7,875,598 KL) of the total water output, respectively.

The third and fourth contributors are South (Kanye, Lobatse, Ghanzi & Tsabong) and Central (Mahalapye, Palapye, Serowe & Letlhakane) regions with 15.1 percent (4,742,739 KL) and 14.6 percent (4,586,719 KL) respectively.

Gaborone 2 Region (Molepolole & Mochudi) and West Region (Maun and Gumare) recorded the lowest shares of total water production during the period under review, contributing 11.7 percent (3,681,094 KL) and (1,385,061 KL) percent, respectively.

3.0 Technical Notes

3.1 Background for Water Utilities Corporation

WUC was established in 1970 by an Act of Parliament (Laws of Botswana Cap 74:02), Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) is a parastatal organization wholly owned by the Government of Botswana. Upon establishment, it was mandated to manage a single project: the supply and distribution of water in what was then called the Shashe Development Area.

The Corporation's mandate is to plan, construct, operate, maintain, and distribute potable water in the entire country, as well as to manage wastewater services as mandated by the Government of the Republic of Botswana. The delivery of uniform service levels, as well as the upgrading of water infrastructure, to meet requisite water and wastewater standards remains a long-term objective that the Corporation is pursuing. The Corporation's customer base was in excess of 550,500 connections at the time of the publishing of this Report.

The Corporation has an asset base valued at over P21 billion. The assets include nine (9) dams: Gaborone, Nnywane, Bokaa, Shashe, Letsibogo, Ntimbale, Dikgatlong, Thune and Lotsane, 900 boreholes, drilling rigs, earthmoving equipment, the North South Carrier Scheme (NSC), with over 500km long pipeline, 35,000km network, water or wastewater connections, water treatment plants, associated pump stations, break-pressure tanks, and wastewater treatment facilities across the entire country.

3.2 Concepts and formula of the Index of water production and Distribution

The Index of water production is a Laspeyres index. The weighted average for water production equals one because there are no various water products. The index is thus calculated using the formula;

$$I = \frac{\sum R_i * W_i}{\sum W_i}$$

Where;

I is the index

R is the water production relative

W is the weight

The water production relative for the quarter has been calculated by using the formula:

$$R_i = \frac{P_{ic}}{P_{io}} * 100$$

Where **P_{ic}** is the water production for the current quarter and **P_{io}** is the production of water at the base year.

The calculation of the monthly production indices is based on the volume of water units produced.

3.3 Base Year

The base year, also referred to as reference period used in this brief is 2025, which is set at 100. The selection of the reference period was informed by the availability of relevant data and synchronization of data with other sectors within the industry.

3.4 Data source

Data used in this publication are sourced from Water Utilities Cooperation (WUC). WUC is a parastatal under the Ministry of Water and Human Settlements. There are six (6) regions comprising of twenty-one (21) business centers responsible for the distribution of water throughout the country.

4.0 Annexures

Table 1: Selected Key Indicators of Water Production: 2018 First Quarter to 2026 First Quarter

Period	Index of the Physical Volume of Water Production	Year-on-Year Percentage Change	Quarter-on-Quarter Percentage Change
2018_Q1	83.1	17.6	0.1
Q2	85.4	5.3	2.9
Q3	82.7	1.4	(3.3)
Q4	84.4	1.8	2.1
2019_Q1	84.3	1.6	(0.1)
Q2	83.9	(1.8)	(0.5)
Q3	82.2	(0.6)	(2.0)
Q4	86.9	3.0	5.8
2020_Q1	90.2	7.0	3.8
Q2	93.9	11.9	4.1
Q3	96.3	17.2	2.6
Q4	94.7	9.0	(1.6)
2021_Q1	93.8	4.0	(1.0)
Q2	95.5	1.7	1.7
Q3	96.7	0.3	1.3
Q4	94.3	(0.4)	(2.4)
2022_Q1	95.9	2.2	1.6
Q2	102.8	7.7	7.2
Q3	95.3	(1.4)	(7.2)
Q4	94.3	(0.1)	(1.1)
2023_Q1	98.7	2.9	4.7
Q2	100.5	(2.2)	1.8
Q3	98.6	3.4	(1.9)
Q4	107.4	13.9	8.9
2024_Q1	109.2	10.7	1.7
Q2	99.5	(1.0)	(8.9)
Q3	98.4	(0.2)	(1.1)
Q4	107.4	0.0	9.2
2025_Q1	98.8	(9.5)	(8.0)
Q2	99.5	0.0	0.7
Q3	102.6	4.3	3.2
Q4	99.1	(7.8)	(3.5)
2026_Q1	98.5	(0.3)	(0.6)

Note:

1. () Denotes negative numbers

2. 2026* Data is up to the first quarter only

Table 2: Source of Water Production by Regions and Percentage Contribution: Q1 2026

REGIONS	BUSINESS CENTER	PRODUCTION ('000'KL)	% CONTRIBUTION
GABORONE 1	Gaborone/ MRT-(Mogoditshane,Ramotswa,Tlokwen)	9,062.25	28.9
NORTH	Francistown, Selebi-Phikwe, Masunga, Tutume, Kasane	7,875.60	25.1
SOUTH	Kanye, Lobatse, Ghanzi, Tsabong	4,742.74	15.1
CENTRAL	Mahalapye, Palapye, Serowe, Letlhakane	4,586.72	14.6
GABORONE 2	Molepolole, Mochudi	3,681.09	11.7
WEST	Maun, Cumare	1,385.06	4.4
Total		31,333.46	100.0

Table 3: Physical Volume of Water Production ('000KL): January 2018 – March 2026

Period	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	9,770.5	9,744.6	9,717.7	9,821.4	10,388.2	11,161.4	11,180.1	10,542.7	10,507.9
February	7,962.4	8,243.6	9,370.1	9,786.5	9,794.9	9,801.7	11,519.7	9,663.4	10,314.3
March	8,688.8	8,845.4	9,616.4	10,242.0	10,317.0	10,428.5	12,038.4	11,225.4	10,511.3
April	8,910.8	9,259.6	9,998.2	10,125.9	11,123.8	10,798.0	10,211.6	10,477.2	
May	9,254.6	8,613.5	9,994.7	10,410.1	11,667.2	10,600.6	10,816.0	10,455.3	
June	9,016.8	8,813.8	9,878.7	9,829.9	9,904.2	10,563.6	10,624.0	10,719.3	
July	9,010.3	8,731.6	10,193.7	10,437.1	10,718.8	10,514.6	10,516.4	10,727.0	
August	8,883.4	8,851.3	10,298.4	9,796.6	9,793.3	10,026.2	10,328.7	11,002.7	
September	8,402.7	8,568.5	10,150.9	10,515.0	9,820.6	10,820.4	10,449.9	10,924.3	
October	8,812.9	9,488.7	10,273.0	9,902.2	10,501.3	11,591.2	11,320.8	10,652.2	
November	9,090.0	8,819.3	9,731.7	10,040.3	9,543.2	11,483.8	11,463.4	10,396.5	
December	8,948.3	9,350.8	10,136.6	10,072.5	9,944.0	11,083.9	11,385.7	10,463.2	
Q1	26,421.7	26,833.7	28,704.2	29,849.8	30,500.0	31,391.6	34,738.1	31,431.5	31,333.5
Q2	27,182.1	26,686.9	29,871.7	30,365.9	32,695.2	31,962.1	31,651.7	31,651.7	-
Q3	26,296.4	26,151.5	30,643.0	30,748.7	30,332.7	31,361.3	31,295.0	32,654.1	-
Q4	26,851.1	27,658.8	30,141.2	30,014.9	29,988.6	34,158.9	34,169.9	31,512.0	-
TOTAL	106,751.3	107,330.9	119,360.0	120,979.3	123,516.6	128,873.8	131,854.6	127,249.2	31,333.5

Table 4: Indices of Physical Volume of Water. Production: January 2018 – March 2026

Period	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	92.1	91.9	91.6	92.6	98.0	105.3	105.4	99.4	99.1
February	75.1	77.7	88.4	92.3	92.4	92.4	108.6	91.1	97.3
March	81.9	83.4	90.7	96.6	97.3	98.3	113.5	105.9	99.1
April	84.0	87.3	94.3	95.5	104.9	101.8	96.3	98.8	-
May	87.3	81.2	94.3	98.2	110.0	100.0	102.0	98.6	-
June	85.0	83.1	93.2	92.7	93.4	99.6	100.2	101.1	-
July	85.0	82.3	96.1	98.4	101.1	99.2	99.2	101.2	-
August	83.8	83.5	97.1	92.4	92.4	94.6	97.4	103.8	-
September	79.2	80.8	95.7	99.2	92.6	102.0	98.5	103.0	-
October	83.1	89.5	96.9	93.4	99.0	109.3	106.8	100.5	-
November	85.7	83.2	91.8	94.7	90.0	108.3	108.1	98.0	-
December	84.4	88.2	95.6	95.0	93.8	104.5	107.4	98.7	-
Q1	83.1	84.3	90.2	93.8	95.9	98.7	109.2	98.8	98.5
Q2	85.4	83.9	93.9	95.5	102.8	100.5	99.5	99.5	-
Q3	82.7	82.2	96.3	96.7	95.3	98.6	98.4	102.6	-
Q4	84.4	86.9	94.7	94.3	94.3	107.4	107.4	99.1	-
TOTAL	83.9	84.3	93.8	95.1	97.1	101.3	103.6	100.0	98.5

Table 5: Annual Percentage Changes in the Indices of the Physical Volume of Water Production: January 2018 – March 2026

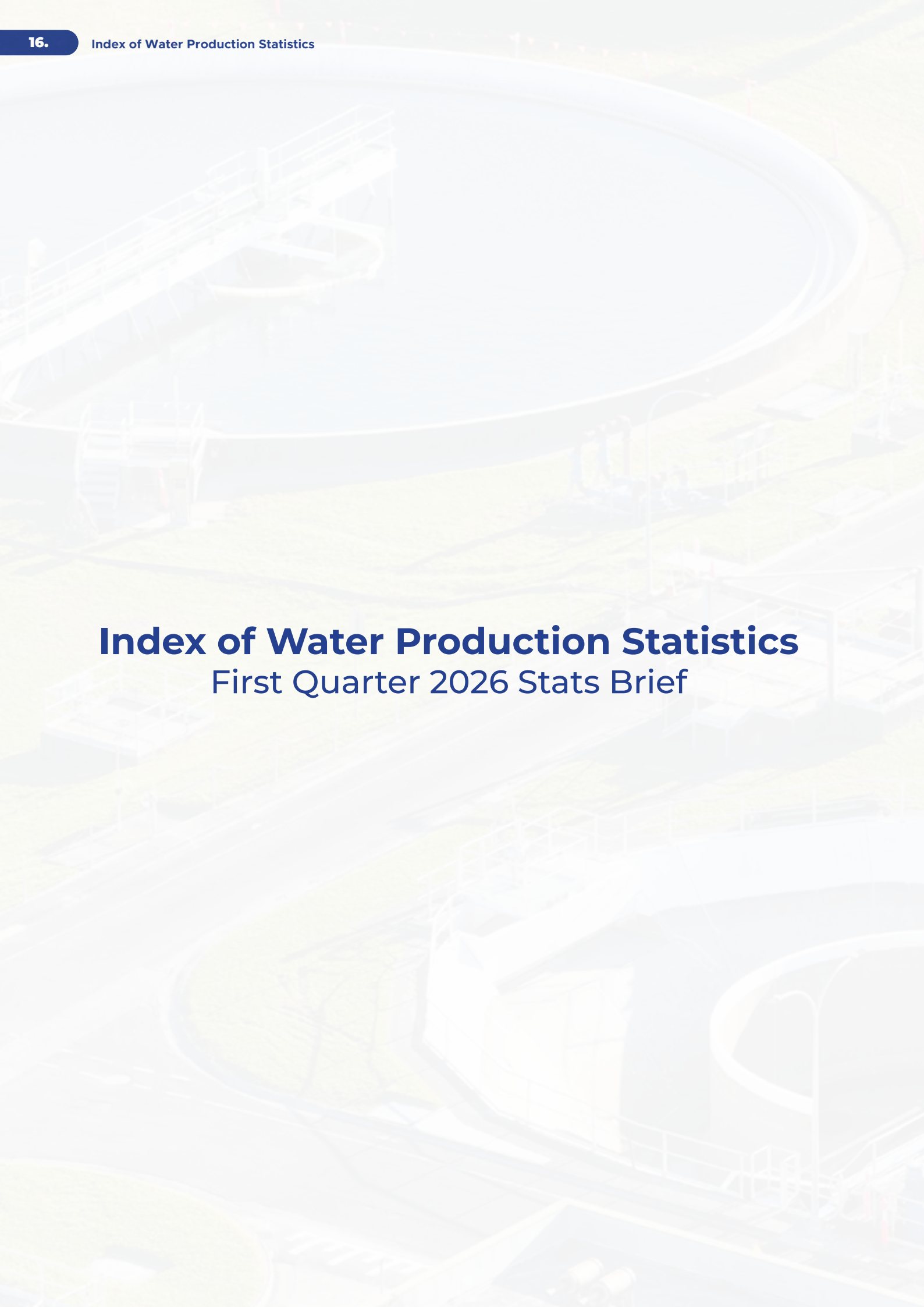
Period	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	30.3	(0.3)	(0.3)	1.1	5.8	7.4	0.2	(5.7)	(0.3)
Feb	9.5	3.5	13.7	4.4	0.1	0.1	17.5	(16.1)	6.7
March	13.0	1.8	8.7	6.5	0.7	1.1	15.4	(6.8)	(6.4)
April	2.9	3.9	8.0	1.3	9.9	(2.9)	(5.4)	2.6	
May	5.8	(6.9)	16.0	4.2	12.1	(9.1)	2.0	(3.3)	
June	7.2	(2.3)	12.1	(0.5)	0.8	6.7	0.6	0.9	
July	2.8	(3.1)	16.7	2.4	2.7	(1.9)	0.0	2.0	
August	5.8	(0.4)	16.3	(4.9)	(0.0)	2.4	3.0	6.5	
September	(4.3)	2.0	18.5	3.6	(6.6)	10.2	(3.4)	4.5	
October	(1.6)	7.7	8.3	(3.6)	6.1	10.4	(2.3)	(5.9)	
November	3.4	(3.0)	10.3	3.2	(5.0)	20.3	(0.2)	(9.3)	
December	3.7	4.5	8.4	(0.6)	(1.3)	11.5	2.7	(8.1)	
Q1	17.6	1.7	7.4	4.0	2.2	2.9	11.0	(9.5)	(0.3)
Q2	5.3	(1.8)	12.0	1.6	7.6	(1.8)	(0.9)	0.1	
Q3	1.4	(0.5)	17.2	0.4	(1.3)	3.6	(0.1)	4.4	
Q4	1.8	3.1	9.0	(0.4)	(0.1)	14.1	0.1	(7.8)	
TOTAL	6.5	0.6	11.4	1.4	2.1	4.7	2.5	(3.2)	(0.3)

Note:**1. () Denotes negative numbers**

Table 6: Quarter-on-Quarter Percentage Changes in the Physical Volume of Water Production: Q1 2018 – Q1 2026

Period	Physical Volume of Water Production ('000KL)	Quarter-on-Quarter Percentage Changes
2018_Q1	26,421.7	0.1
Q2	27,182.1	2.9
Q3	26,296.4	(3.3)
Q4	26,851.1	2.1
2019_Q1	26,833.7	(0.1)
Q2	26,686.9	(0.5)
Q3	26,151.5	(2.0)
Q4	27,658.8	5.8
2020_Q1	28,704.2	3.8
Q2	29,871.7	4.1
Q3	30,643.0	2.6
Q4	30,141.2	(1.6)
2021_Q1	29,849.8	(1.0)
Q2	30,365.9	1.7
Q3	30,748.7	1.3
Q4	30,014.9	(2.4)
2022_Q1	30,500.0	1.6
Q2	32,695.2	7.2
Q3	30,332.7	(7.2)
Q4	29,988.6	(1.1)
2023_Q1	31,391.6	4.7
Q2	31,962.1	1.8
Q3	31,361.3	(1.9)
Q4	34,158.9	8.9
2024_Q1	34,738.1	1.7
Q2	31,651.7	(8.9)
Q3	31,295.0	(1.1)
Q4	34,169.9	9.2
2025_Q1	31,431.5	(8.0)
Q2	31,651.7	0.7
Q3	32,654.1	3.2
Q4	31,512.0	(3.5)
2026_Q1	31,333.5	(0.6)

Note:**1. () Denotes negative numbers**



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