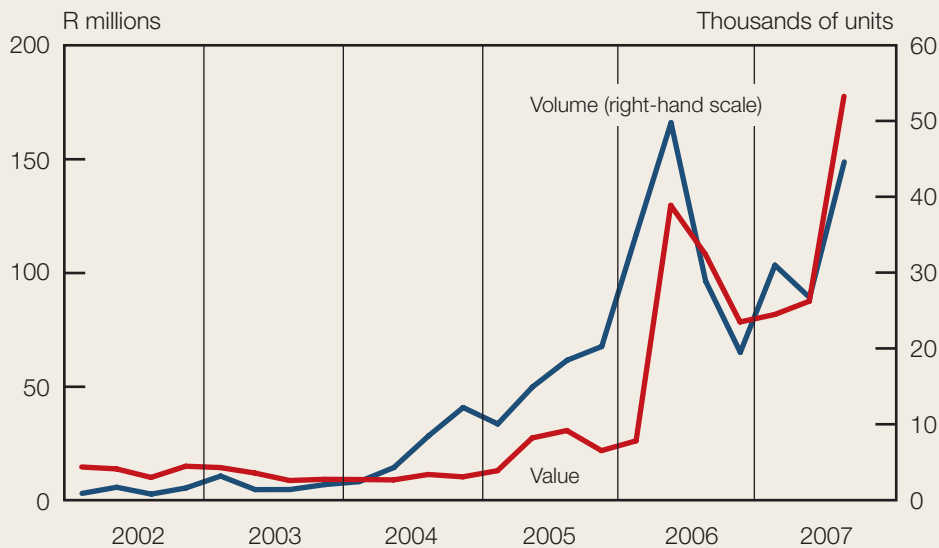


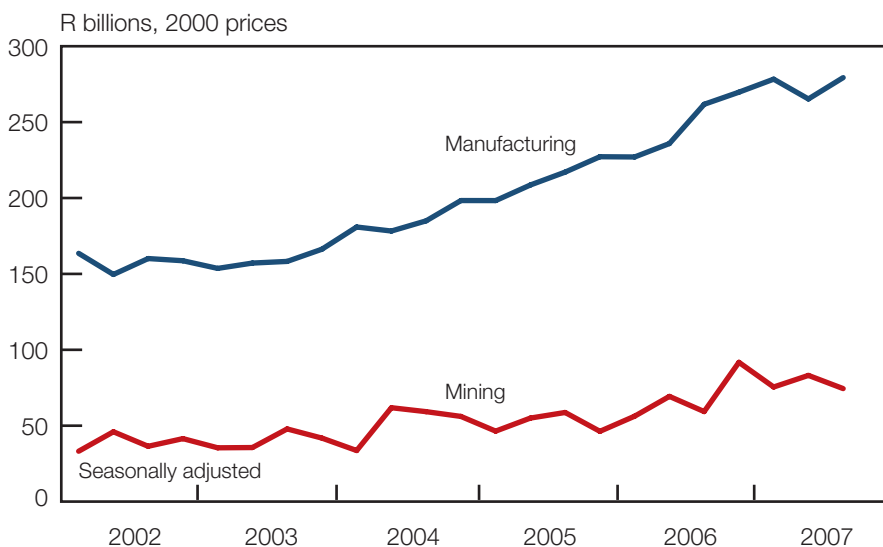
## Imports of electricity generators

Rising demand for electricity has not been fully met by increases in capacity in recent years, resulting in an increase in the frequency of load-shedding in South Africa. As a result, businesses and households have increasingly acquired standby generators in order to ensure a continuous supply of electricity. The rising trend in the importation of generators is illustrated in the accompanying graph.

### Imports of petrol and diesel-based electric generating sets



### Volume of merchandise imports



Higher international crude oil prices and a marginal increase in the wholesale prices of the country's trading-partner countries raised the rand prices of merchandise imports by 3 per cent in the third quarter of 2007. As a result, the value of imported goods increased to R587,7 billion over the period.