

SALES OF ELECTRICITY

Total sales of electricity by Escom during 1968 amounted to 28,885 million units reflecting an increase of 8.4 per cent for the year. This is slightly lower than the growth rate of 8.7 per cent for 1967. The growth rate during the last two years has been higher than the average experienced over the previous ten-year period.

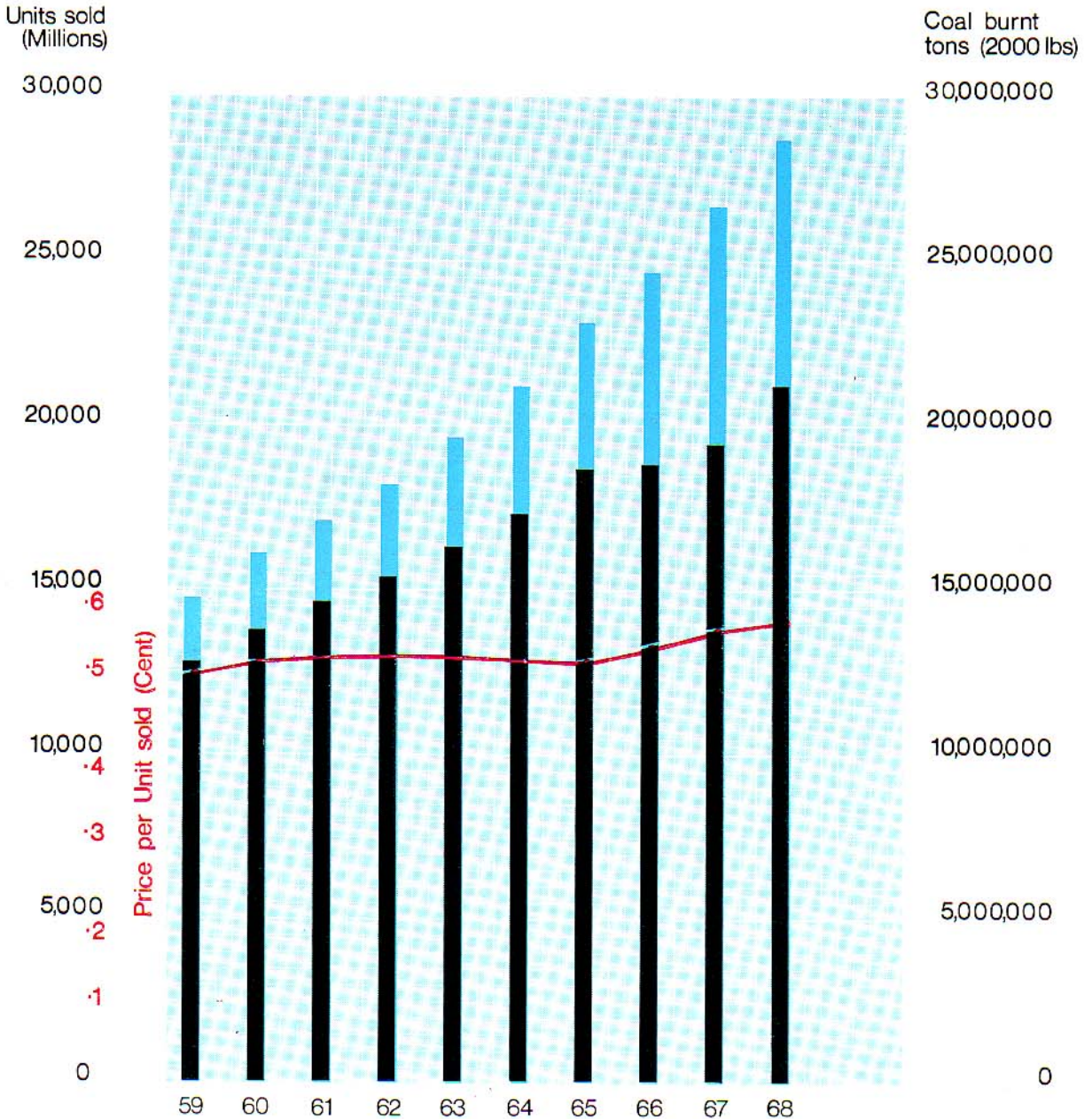
The increase in the number of units sold during 1968 was distributed almost equally over the three main categories of consumer, namely, mining, industrial consumers and bulk supplies to municipalities. It should be remembered that a fair proportion of the bulk supplies to municipalities is used by industrial consumers in the municipal areas.

Mining continued to be the largest consumer purchasing 41.5 per cent of all units sold.

Units Generated and Sold

The total units generated in all Escom's Undertakings during the year 1968 amounted to 33,016 million units which represents an increase of 8.7 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1967. Purchases from outside sources were reduced to 7.9 million units as compared with 69.6 million units last year.

The growth of Escom's sales over the ten years 1959 to 1968 is depicted in the blue columns in the diagram below. The black columns represent the coal burnt while the red line indicates the average price per unit sold.



The average figure of 0·5550 cent per unit sold during 1968 represents an increase of 1·5 per cent above the corresponding figure of 0·5467 cent per unit sold during 1967.

The cost per unit sold increased from 0·5512 cent per unit in 1967 to 0·5608 cent per unit sold in 1968. This represents an increase of 1·7 per cent during 1968. The larger part of this increase is due to an increase of 1·9 per cent in the cost of coal burnt during 1968, while a contributing factor is the higher

interest rates being currently paid on raising new loans.

The figures represented in the above diagram are the average for all undertakings. The prices for each individual undertaking and for different classes of consumer in each undertaking are given in the section of this report relating to the Undertakings, commencing on page 22.

The figures of units generated, purchased and of units sold for all Undertakings were as follows:—