

Monthly Flash Estimates of Electric Power Data

Data for:
February 2006

Section 1. Commentary

After an unusually warm January, February weather reverted to a historically more normal seasonal pattern. February 2006 heating degree days were, however, still 8 percent higher than in February 2005, which had been warmer than normal. Following a normal seasonal decline (largely due to February being a short month), total net generation in February was 6.7 percent lower than January 2006. However, net generation was 1.9 percent higher than in February 2005, in line with higher heating degree days from last year. Hydroelectric generation this month was 10 percent lower than in January 2006, but up 14.5 percent from February 2005.

In February 2006, total retail sales of electricity were similarly 7.6 percent lower than in January 2006. Residential sales showed the largest decline, down by 13.4 percent, followed by a 5.8 percent decline in commercial retail sales. The average retail price of electricity continued to climb in February by 1.7 percent from January 2006. Compared to February 2005, the average retail price for all sectors was 12.1 percent higher, mostly due to higher fuel costs for generation.

From January to February 2006 all fuel categories for electricity generation were down, except for natural gas, which was up 8.5 percent due to lower prices (spot gas prices at the Henry Hub in February 2006 were at their lowest level since June 2005). Coal generation was down 6.5 percent and nuclear generation was down 12.9 percent. However, compared to a year ago nuclear generation was up 2.7 percent (with consistently lower outages throughout the month), natural gas generation was up 1.5 percent, coal generation was up 1.2 percent, but petroleum liquids generation was down 42.6 percent. It appears that in February 2006 natural gas has displaced petroleum liquids to meet some of peak load generation needs.

While petroleum liquids stocks were little changed from January (down 0.2 percent) coal stocks rose by 0.5 percent. Comparing current month to same month last year, coal stocks have now risen for the second month in a row. This is the first time this has happened since late 2002. This change, however, was not uniform across all coal types. While bituminous coal stocks increased 1.1 percent from 54.2 to 54.8 million tons, subbituminous coal stocks declined 0.6 percent from 46.4 to 46.1 million tons from January 2006. From February 2005, bituminous coal stocks increased 23.0 percent, while subbituminous coal stocks decreased 7.4 percent. Rail transportation maintenance and weather-related problems continued to constrain subbituminous shipments from the Powder River Basin.

Table of Contents

1. Commentary	Page 1
2. Key Indicators of Generation, Consumption & Stocks	Page 2
3. Month-to-Month Comparisons: Generation, Consumption and Stocks (Total)	Page 3
4. Net Generation Trends	Page 4
5. Fossil Fuel Consumption Trends	Page 5
6. Fossil Fuel Stock Trends	Page 6
7. Month-to-Month Comparisons: Electric Power Retail Sales and Average Prices	Page 7
8. Retail Sales Trends	Page 8
9. Average Retail Price Trends	Page 9
10. Heating and Cooling Degree Days	Page 10
11. Documentation	Page 11

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Section 2. Key Indicators of Generation, Consumption & Stocks

Data for:
February 2006

Table 2.1 Key Generation Indicators

	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
Total Change From:			
January 2006	-6.7%	-12.9%	-10.0%
February 2005	1.9%	2.7%	14.5%
Year to Date	-1.9%	2.9%	14.0%
Latest 12 Month Period*	1.9%	0.0%	0.6%

Table 2.2 Key Consumption and Stocks Indicators

	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
Total Change From:			
January 2006	6.4%	-7.0%	0.5%
February 2005	-0.3%	0.9%	6.8%
Year to Date	-10.8%	-2.2%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	4.9%	2.2%	n/a

* Change in total consumption or generation for the latest 12 month period (March 2005 to February 2006) compared to the prior 12 month period (March 2004 to February 2005).

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.1 Total Net Generation (All Sectors)

Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Feb-06	Feb-05	% Change	Jan-06	% Change
Coal	157,948	156,088	1.2%	168,997	-6.5%
Petroleum Liquids	3,203	5,580	-42.6%	4,182	-23.4%
Natural Gas	45,300	44,649	1.5%	41,735	8.5%
Nuclear	62,616	60,947	2.7%	71,912	-12.9%
Hydroelectric Conventional	24,388	21,295	14.5%	27,084	-10.0%
All Other	10,149	9,381	8.2%	11,335	-10.5%
Total (All Energy Sources)	303,604	297,940	1.9%	325,246	-6.7%

Fossil Fuel Consumption for Electric Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.2 Total Consumption of Fossil Fuels for Electric Generation (All Sectors)

Consumption of Fossil Fuels	Feb-06	Feb-05	% Change	Jan-06	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	82,194	81,463	0.9%	88,382	-7.0%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	5,819	9,516	-38.9%	7,422	-21.6%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	377,935	379,032	-0.3%	355,140	6.4%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 3.3 Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Feb-06	Feb-05	% Change	Jan-06	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	104,988	98,292	6.8%	104,479	0.5%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	52,852	45,718	15.6%	52,981	-0.2%

Notes:

- **Coal consumption and generation** includes subbituminous coal, bituminous coal, anthracite, lignite, waste coal and coal synfuel.
- **Coal stocks** include the coal categories listed immediately above except for waste coal. The bituminous category includes anthracite and coal synfuel.
- **Petroleum Liquids consumption and generation** includes distillate oil, residual oil, jet fuel, kerosene and waste oil.
- **Petroleum Liquids stocks** includes the oil categories listed immediately above, except waste oil is excluded from data collected for January 2004 and subsequently. Data prior to 2004 contains small quantities of waste oil.
- **The "All Other" generation category** includes biomass, solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric pumped storage, petroleum coke, other gases, and other miscellaneous energy sources.

Section 4. Net Generation Trends

Data for:
February 2006

Table 4.1 Trends in Total Generation by Fuel (All Sectors)
Millions of Kilowatthours

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	January 2006	February 2006	326,945	7,384	87,035	134,527	51,472	21,487	628,850
Prior Period	January 2005	February 2005	333,399	15,889	96,376	130,775	45,146	19,583	641,168
Percent Change			-1.9%	-53.5%	-9.7%	2.9%	14.0%	9.7%	-1.9%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	March 2005	February 2006	2,007,719	91,778	742,208	784,217	271,404	128,344	4,025,670
Prior Period	February 2004	February 2005	1,969,797	94,729	707,063	784,395	269,667	125,247	3,950,898
Percent Change			1.9%	-3.1%	5.0%	0.0%	0.6%	2.5%	1.9%

Figure 4.1 Trends in Total Net Generation (All Sectors): 2004, 2005, and 2006

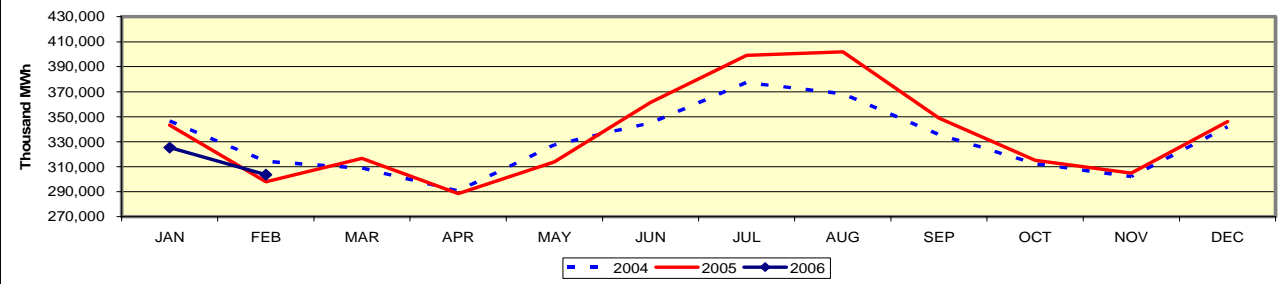


Figure 4.2 Fossil Fuel Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

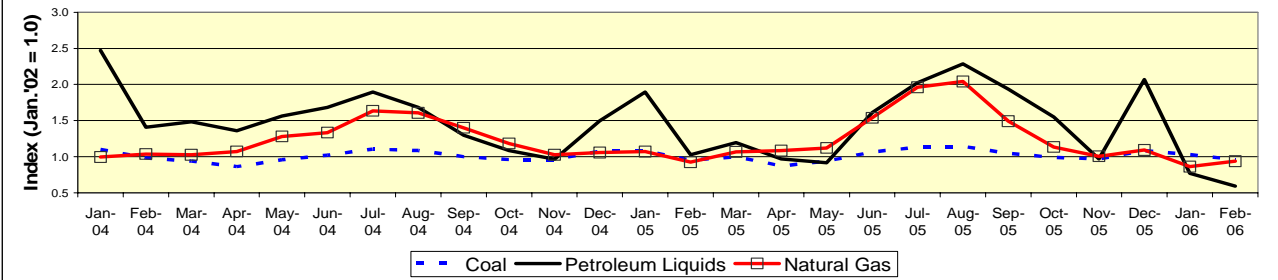
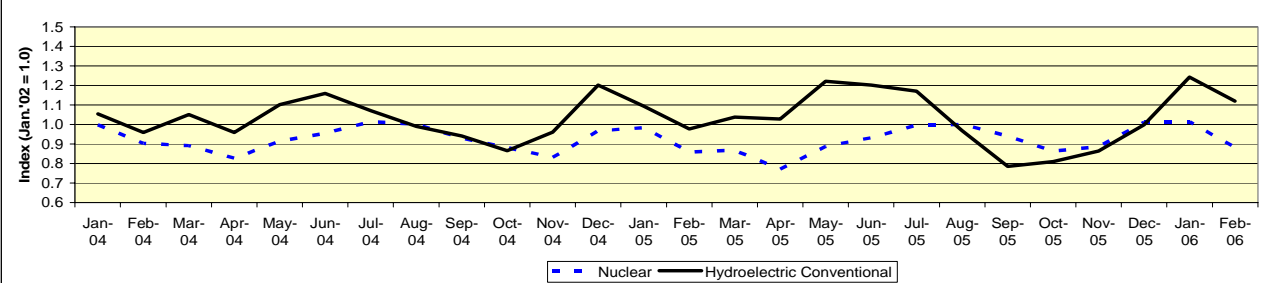


Figure 4.3 Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 5. Fossil Fuel Consumption Trends

Data for:
February 2006

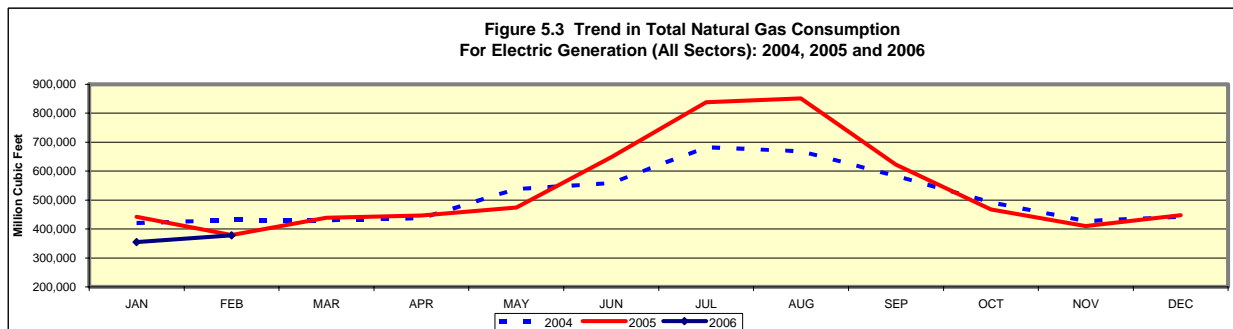
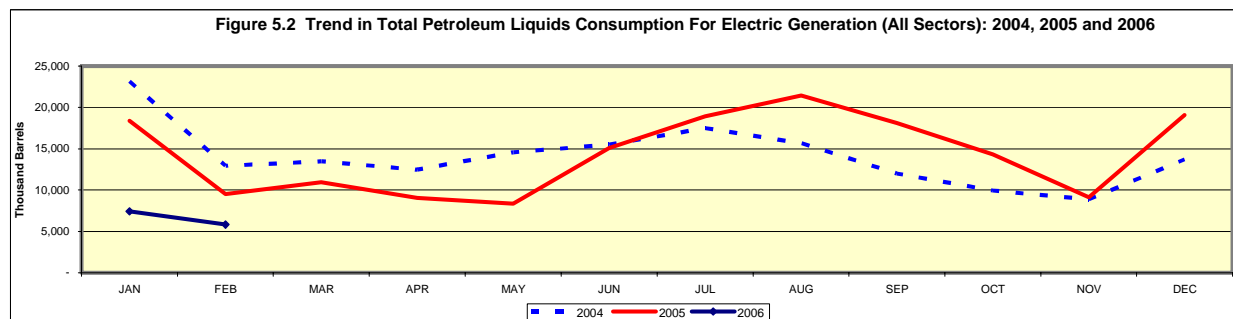
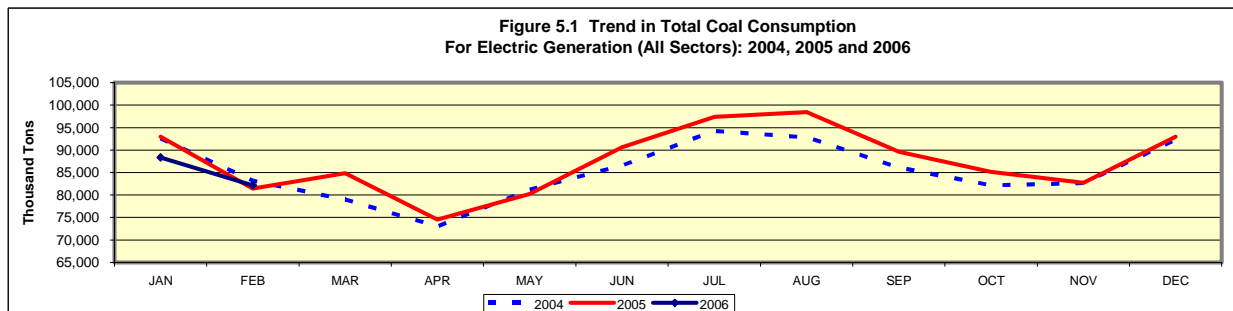
Table 5.1 Trends in Fossil Fuel Consumption For Electric Generation, Total (All Sectors)

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	January 2006	February 2006	170,576	13,241	733,076
Prior Period	January 2005	February 2005	174,430	27,909	821,491
Percent Change			-2.2%	-52.6%	-10.8%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	March 2005	February 2006	1,047,324	157,739	6,377,557
Prior Period	February 2004	February 2005	1,024,624	161,608	6,081,215
Percent Change			2.2%	-2.4%	4.9%

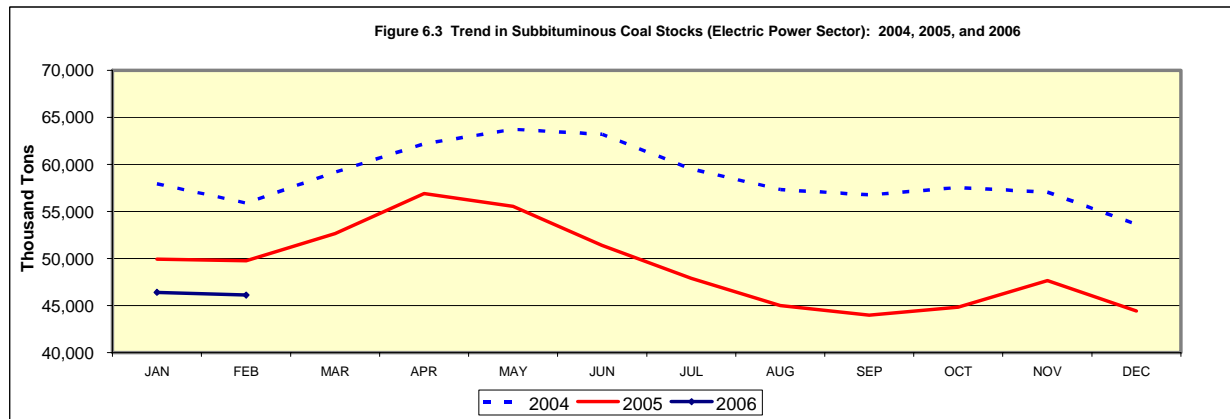
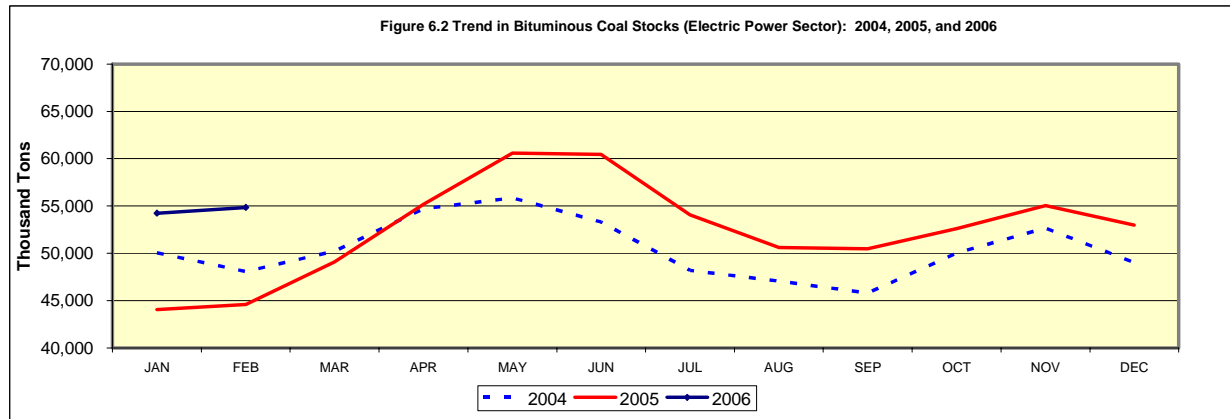
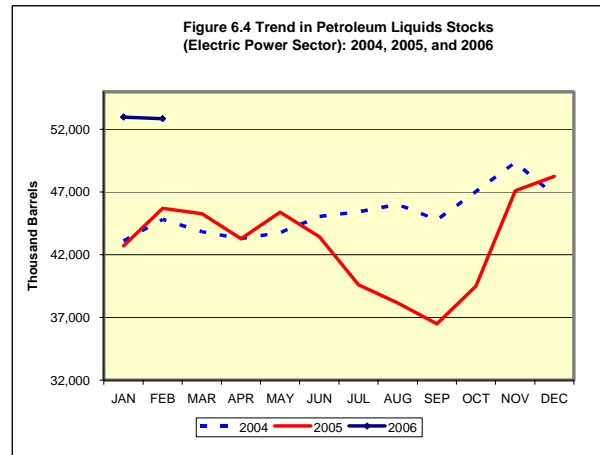
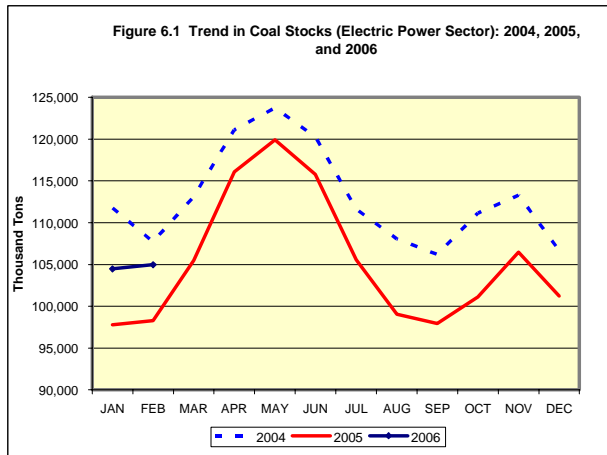


Section 6. Fossil Fuel Stock Trends

Data for:
February 2006

Table 6.1 Trends in Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Feb-06	Feb-05	% Change	Jan-06	% Change
Coal, Total (Thousand Short Tons)	104,988	98,292	6.8%	104,479	0.5%
Bituminous (includes anthracite and coal symfuel)	54,848	44,578	23.0%	54,243	1.1%
Subbituminous	46,104	49,769	-7.4%	46,402	-0.6%
Lignite	4,036	3,946	2.3%	3,834	5.3%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	52,852	45,718	15.6%	52,981	-0.2%



Section 7. Month-to-Month Comparisons: Electric Power Retail Sales and Average Prices

Data for:
February 2006

Retail Sales

Table 7.1 Retail Sales (Million kWh)

Ultimate Customer	Feb-06	Feb-05	% Change	Jan-06	% Change
Residential	104,715	107,417	-2.5%	120,979	-13.4%
Commercial	95,449	92,736	2.9%	101,287	-5.8%
Industrial	79,854	79,357	0.6%	80,736	-1.1%
Transportation	686	719	-4.6%	725	-5.4%
All Sectors	280,704	280,229	0.2%	303,727	-7.6%

Average Retail Price

Table 7.2 Average Retail Price (Cents/kWh) -- U.S. Total

Ultimate Customer	Feb-06	Feb-05	% Change	Jan-06	% Change
Residential	9.82	8.73	12.5%	9.55	2.8%
Commercial	9.06	8.20	10.5%	8.82	2.7%
Industrial	5.81	5.07	14.6%	5.71	1.8%
Transportation	7.26	7.06	2.8%	7.15	1.5%
All Sectors	8.42	7.51	12.1%	8.28	1.7%

Table 7.3 Average Retail Price (Cents/kWh) by Census Division

Census Division	Residential			All Sectors		
	Feb-06	Feb-05	% Change	Feb-06	Feb-05	% Change
New England	16.59	12.93	28.3%	14.74	11.58	27.3%
Mid Atlantic	12.71	11.49	10.6%	10.84	9.74	11.3%
East North Central	8.76	7.96	10.1%	7.18	6.59	9.0%
West North Central	7.52	7.03	7.0%	6.26	5.88	6.5%
South Atlantic	9.22	8.31	11.0%	8.02	7.24	10.8%
East South Central	7.67	6.87	11.6%	6.38	5.72	11.5%
West South Central	10.71	8.72	22.8%	9.13	7.42	23.0%
Mountain	8.38	8.07	3.8%	7.05	6.70	5.2%
Pacific Contiguous	10.55	9.56	10.4%	9.55	8.90	7.3%
Pacific Noncontiguous	18.58	15.77	17.8%	16.92	14.27	18.6%
U.S. Total	9.82	8.73	12.5%	8.42	7.51	12.1%

Section 8. Retail Sales Trends

Data for:
February 2006

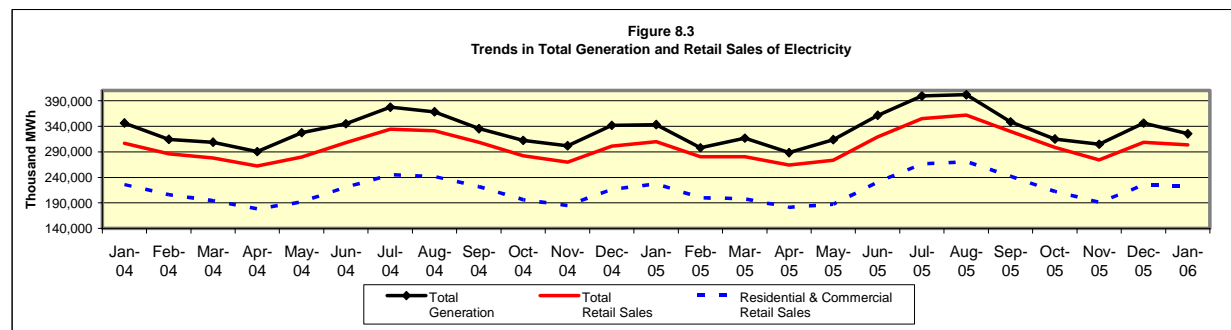
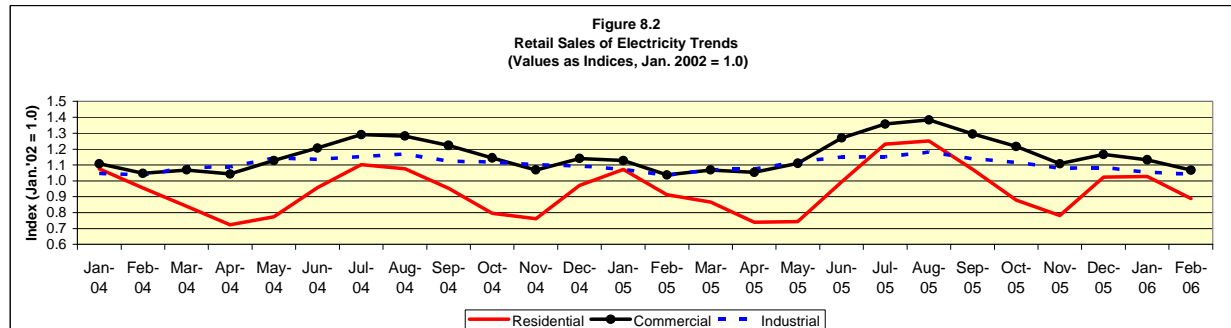
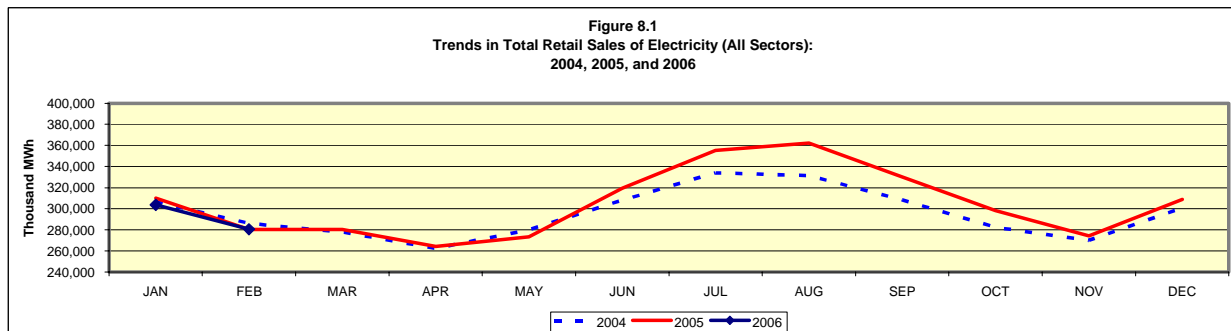
Table 8.1 Trends in Total Retail Sales of Electricity (All Sectors)
Millions of Kilowatthours

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2006	February 2006	225,694	196,736	160,590	1,411	584,431
Prior Period	January 2005	February 2005	233,720	193,610	161,535	1,474	590,339
Percent Change			-3.4%	1.6%	-0.6%	-4.3%	-1.0%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	March 2005	February 2006	1,354,259	1,271,830	1,016,263	8,211	3,650,564
Prior Period	February 2004	February 2005	1,288,025	1,230,043	1,020,462	7,311	3,545,840
Percent Change			5.1%	3.4%	-0.4%	12.3%	3.0%



Section 9. Average Retail Price Trends

Data for:
February 2006

**Table 9.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors)
Cents Per Kilowatthours**

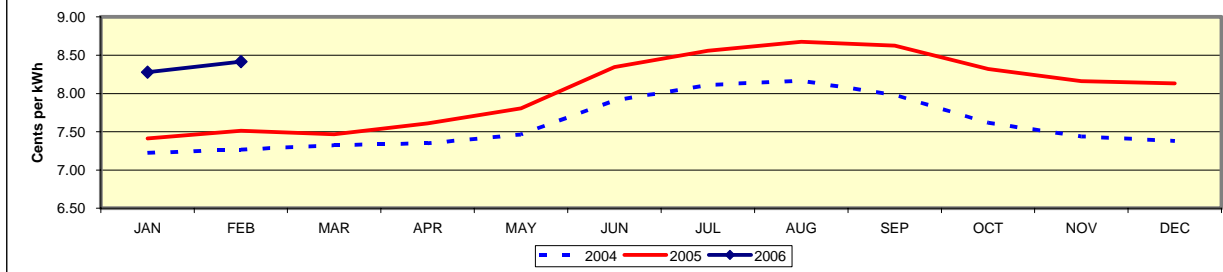
Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2006	February 2006	9.68	8.94	5.76	7.21	8.35
Prior Period	January 2005	February 2005	8.60	8.09	5.07	6.96	7.46
Percent Change			12.6%	10.5%	13.6%	3.6%	11.9%

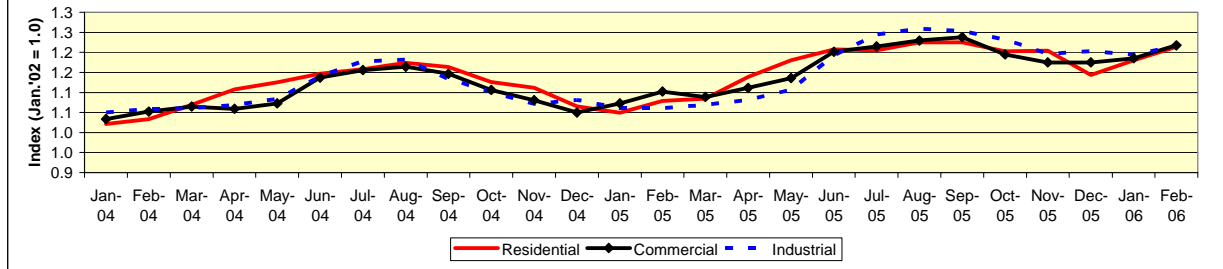
Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	March 2005	February 2006	9.60	8.81	5.68	7.48	8.23
Prior Period	February 2004	February 2005	9.03	8.21	5.27	7.14	7.66
Percent Change			6.3%	7.3%	7.8%	4.8%	7.4%

**Figure 9.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors):
2004, 2005, and 2006**



**Figure 9.2 Average Retail Price of Electricity Trends by Ultimate Customer
(Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)**



Section 10. Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Data for:
February 2006

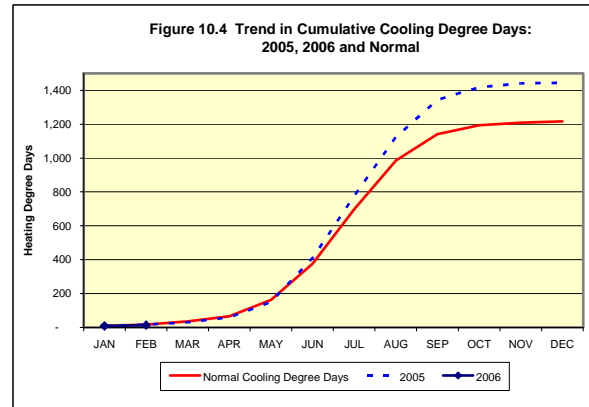
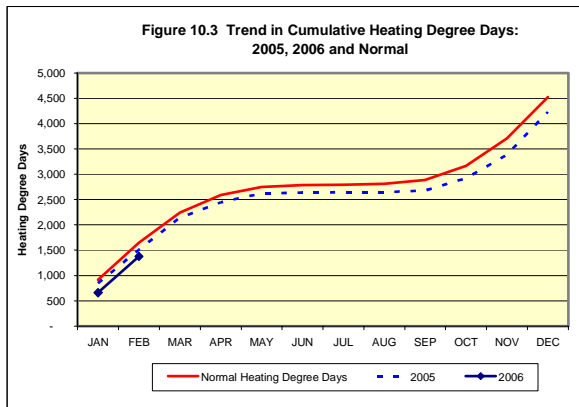
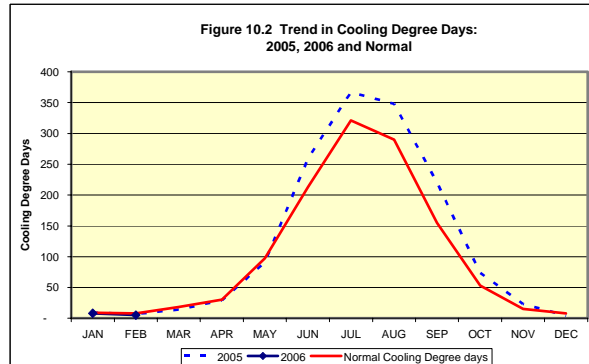
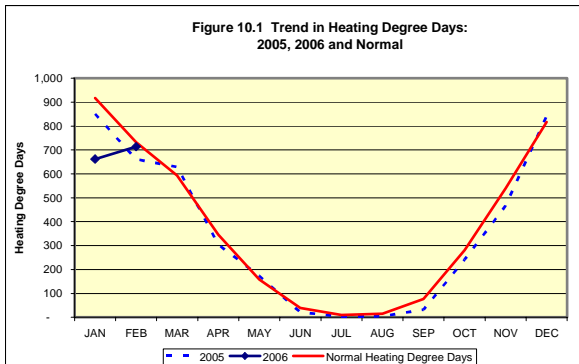
Table 10.1 Degree Days

	Month	Heating Degree Days			Cooling Degree Days		
		Heating Degree Days	Normal Heating Degree Days	Deviation From the Normal	Cooling Degree Days	Normal Cooling Degree Days	Deviation From the Normal
Current Period	February 2006	714	732	-18	5	8	-3
Previous Period	February 2005	661	732	-71	7	8	-1
Percent Change		8.0%			-28.6%		

Table 10.2 Trends in Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Year-to-Date Comparison				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	January 2006	February 2006	1,376	13
Prior Period	January 2005	February 2005	1,512	16
Percent Change			-9.0%	-18.8%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	March 2005	February 2006	4,093	1,442
Prior Period	February 2004	February 2005	4,010	1,265
Percent Change			2.1%	14.0%



General: The *Monthly Flash Estimates of Electric Power Data* ("Flash Estimates") is prepared by the Electric Power Division, Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels, Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. Department of Energy. Data published in the *Flash Estimates* are compiled from the following sources: Form EIA-826, "Monthly Electric Utility Sales and Revenues with State Distributions Report," Form EIA-906, "Power Plant Report," and Form EIA-920, "Combined Heat and Power Plant Report."

The survey data is collected monthly from a statistically-derived sample of power plants and electricity retailers. The nominal sample sizes are: for the Form EIA-826, approximately 450 electric utilities and other energy service providers; for the Form EIA-920, approximately 300 combined heat and power (CHP) plants; and for the Form EIA-906, approximately 1,440 non-CHP plants. With the exception of stocks, a regression-based method is used to estimate totals from the sample. Essentially complete samples are collected for the *Electric Power Monthly*, which includes State-level values. The *Flash Estimates* is based on an incomplete sample and includes only national-level estimates. Stocks data for out-of-sample plants and any monthly non-respondents are estimated by bringing forward the last reported value for a plant.

For complete documentation on EIA monthly electric data collection and estimation, see the Technical Notes to the *Electric Power Monthly*, at: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epm/epm.pdf>. Values displayed in the *Flash Estimates* may differ from values published in the *Electric Power Monthly* due to independent rounding. This report represents the EIA's initial release for national level electricity data. Updated information will be released in the *Electric Power Monthly*.

Sector definitions: The Electric Power Sector comprises electricity-only and CHP plants within the North American Industrial Classification System 22 category whose primary business is to sell electricity, or electricity and heat, to the public (i.e., electric utility plants and Independent Power Producers (IPP), including IPP plants that operate as combined heat and power producers). The All Sectors totals include the Electric Power Sector and the Commercial and Industrial sectors (Commercial and Industrial power producers are primarily CHP plants).

Composition of fuel categories: See notes on page 3.

Degree Days: Notes: Degree-days are relative measurements of outdoor air temperature used as an index for heating and cooling energy requirements. Heating degree-days are the number of degrees that the daily average temperature falls below 65° F. Cooling degree-days are the number of degrees that the daily average temperature rises above 65° F. The daily average temperature is the mean of the maximum and minimum temperatures in a 24-hour period. For example, a weather station recording an average daily temperature of 40° F would report 25 heating degree-days for that day (and 0 cooling degree-days). If a weather station recorded an average daily temperature of 78° F, cooling degree-days for that station would be 13 (and 0 heating degree days).