

Monthly Flash Estimates of Electric Power Data

Data for:
April 2006

Section 1. Commentary

The weather through April 2006 continued to be warmer than in 2005. Year-to-date heating degree days were down almost 9.3 percent through April. For April alone heating degree days were down 13.8 percent from last year and were 24.0 percent lower than normal. Cooling degree days for April 2006 were 97 percent higher than last year, although April is not a significant month for space heating.

Because of the warmer weather, year-to-date net generation was 0.5 percent less than in 2005. The warm conditions also contributed to a 2.2-percent increase in generation comparing April 2006 to April of last year. Year-to-date retail sales of electricity were unchanged from last year, and increased 1.4 percent comparing April 2005 and April 2006. A strong economy has in part offset weather related effects. The average retail price of electricity was up 11.7 percent year to date, largely due to higher fuel prices.

Reflecting the decline in total generation, year-to-date coal generation was down 1.9 percent. Natural gas and petroleum liquid fueled generation, both of which are largely used to meet peak demands, also declined but to very different degrees. Natural gas-fired generation, benefiting from a moderation in gas prices in 2006, actually increased by 3.7 percent comparing April 2005 to April 2006 and dropped a modest 2.2 percent year-to-date. In contrast, as a consequence of high oil prices, petroleum liquid-fired generation declined 54.2 percent year-to-date and dropped by 45.1 percent comparing April 2005 to April 2006.

Consistent with the decline in generation, consumption of coal, natural gas and petroleum liquids also declined. Year-to-date, coal burn was down 1.9 percent, natural gas was down 2.8 percent, and petroleum liquids consumption dropped 52.8 percent. Reduced consumption of coal and petroleum liquids contributed to stockpile builds. Electric power sector coal inventories grew 12.5 percent from March 2006 and were 7.8 percent ahead of April 2005, even exceeding the April 2004 level. In April subbituminous coal stocks surged 14.2 percent from March 2006, and were only 1.1 percent below the April 2005 level. Bituminous stocks were almost 17.1 percent above 2005 levels. Petroleum liquids inventories were 20 percent higher than in April 2005 due to the drop in oil-fired generation.

Unlike the major fossil fuels, both nuclear and hydroelectric generation have increased so far in 2006. Nuclear generation, which continues to experience fewer days lost to planned and forced maintenance than in 2005, was 3.5 percent higher through April. Hydroelectric generation was 15.1 percent higher year-to-date. Comparing April 2005 and April 2006, hydro generation has increased by 25.2 percent. The strong increase in hydro output reflects heavy precipitation which has put water supplies at or above normal in the northwestern states, the largest hydroelectric production region.

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Section 2. Key Indicators of Generation, Consumption & Stocks

Data for:
April 2006

Table 2.1 Key Generation Indicators

	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
Total Change From:			
March 2006	-6.8%	-9.7%	15.9%
April 2005	2.2%	5.2%	25.2%
Year to Date	-0.5%	3.5%	15.1%
Latest 12 Month Period*	1.9%	1.3%	2.9%

Table 2.2 Key Consumption and Stocks Indicators

	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
Total Change From:			
March 2006	1.4%	-12.0%	12.5%
April 2005	3.9%	-1.5%	7.8%
Year to Date	-2.8%	-1.9%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	5.2%	1.2%	n/a

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

Section 3. Month-to-Month Comparisons: Generation, Consumption and Stocks (Total)

Data for:
April 2006

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.1 Total Net Generation (All Sectors)

Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Apr-06	Apr-05	% Change	Mar-06	% Change
Coal	140,838	143,278	-1.7%	160,498	-12.2%
Petroleum Liquids	2,895	5,272	-45.1%	2,377	21.8%
Natural Gas	54,397	52,442	3.7%	54,002	0.7%
Nuclear	57,567	54,747	5.2%	63,721	-9.7%
Hydroelectric Conventional	28,055	22,404	25.2%	24,215	15.9%
All Other	11,045	10,422	6.0%	11,426	-3.3%
Total (All Energy Sources)	294,797	288,566	2.2%	316,239	-6.8%

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	Apr-06	Apr-05	% Change	Mar-06	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	73,429	74,553	-1.5%	83,482	-12.0%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	5,060	9,042	-44.0%	4,230	19.6%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	463,786	446,368	3.9%	457,281	1.4%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 3.3 Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Apr-06	Apr-05	% Change	Mar-06	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	125,168	116,088	7.8%	111,299	12.5%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	51,935	43,293	20.0%	53,536	-3.0%

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:
April 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	April 2006	628,584	12,667	195,887	255,815	103,788	43,997	1,240,738
Prior Period	January 2005	April 2005	640,632	27,647	200,390	247,061	90,179	40,605	1,246,514
Percent Change			-1.9%	-54.2%	-2.2%	3.5%	15.1%	8.4%	-0.5%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	May 2005	April 2006	2,002,125	85,303	747,046	789,219	278,686	129,834	4,032,213
Prior Period	May 2004	April 2005	1,981,207	91,058	709,599	778,776	270,898	125,334	3,956,872
Percent Change			1.1%	-6.3%	5.3%	1.3%	2.9%	3.6%	1.9%

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

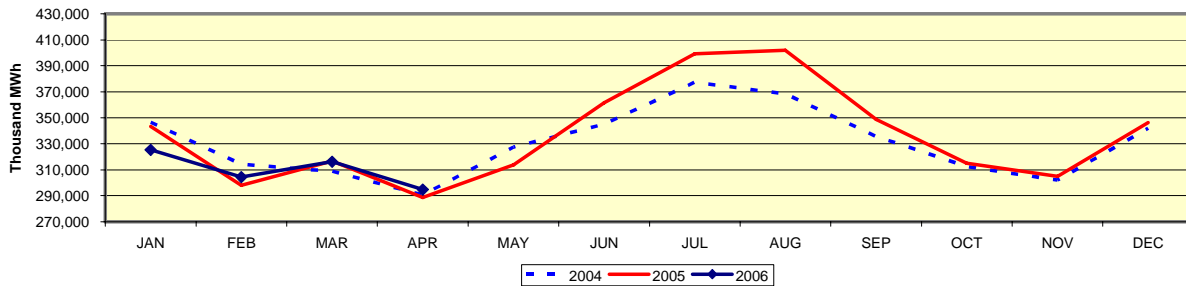


Figure 4.2 Fossil Fuel Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

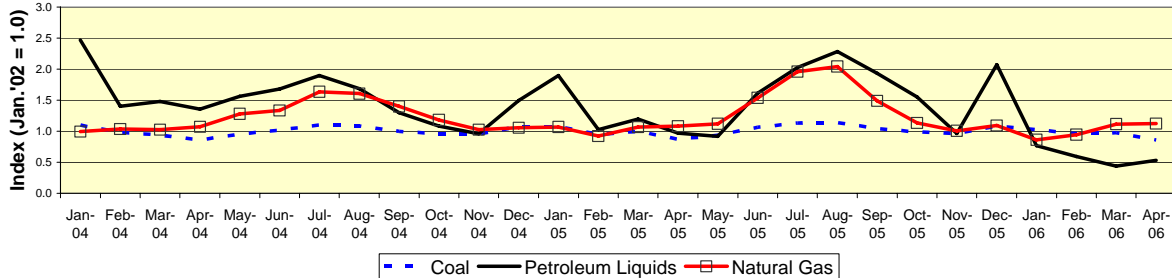
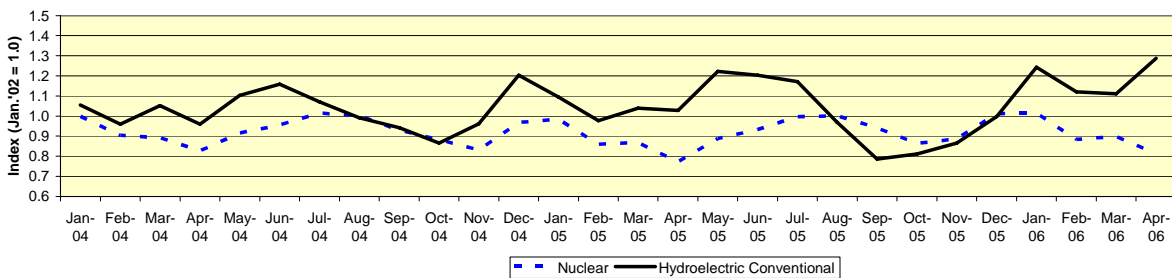


Figure 4.3 Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 5. Fossil Fuel Consumption Trends

Data for:
April 2006

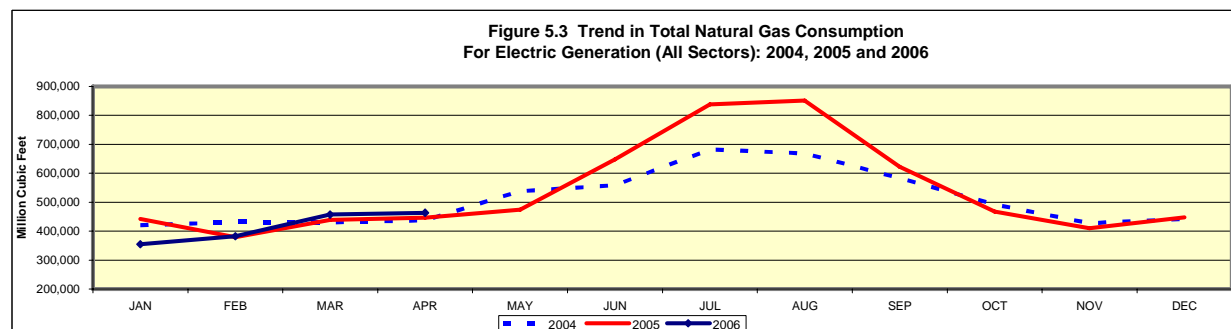
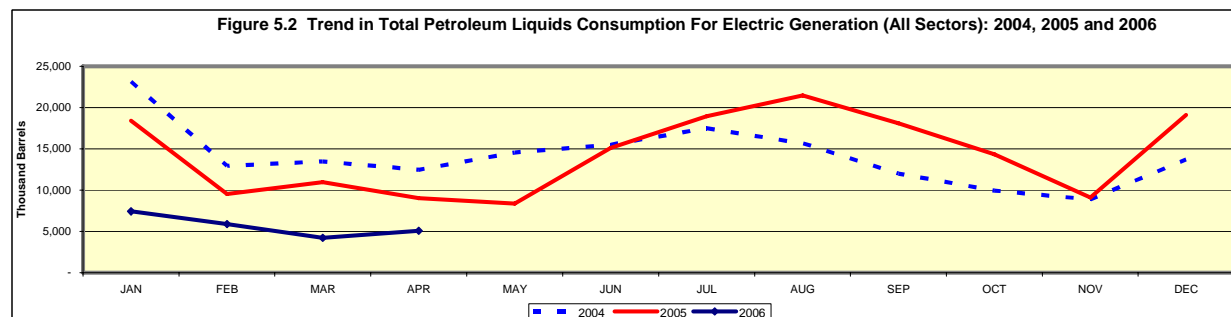
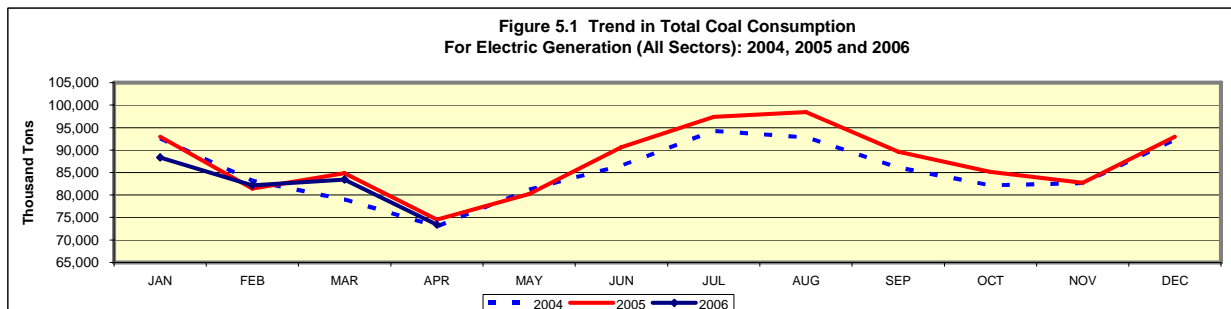
Table 5.1 Trends in Fossil Fuel Consumption For Electric Generation, Total (All Sectors)

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	January 2006	April 2006	327,488	22,598	1,658,049
Prior Period	January 2005	April 2005	333,839	47,905	1,706,580
Percent Change			-1.9%	-52.8%	-2.8%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	May 2005	April 2006	1,044,827	147,100	6,417,440
Prior Period	May 2004	April 2005	1,032,023	155,661	6,098,834
Percent Change			1.2%	-5.5%	5.2%

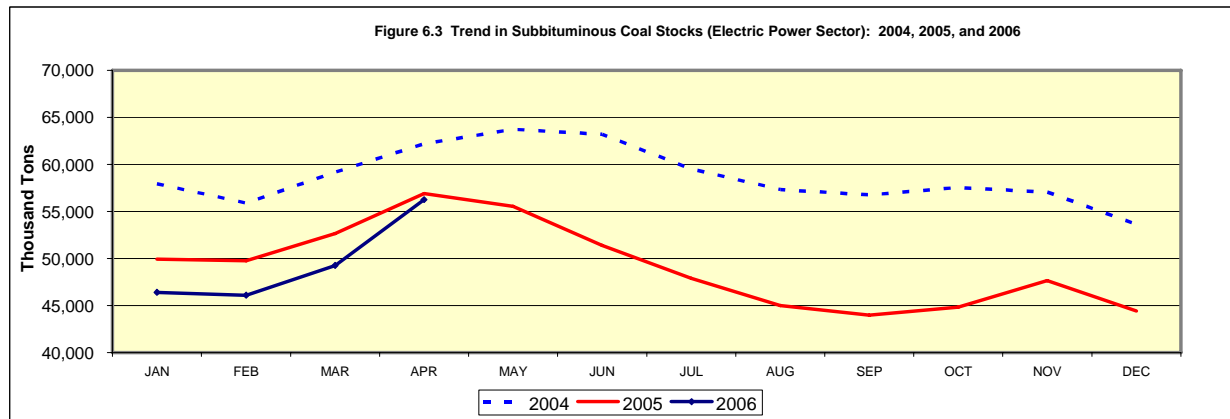
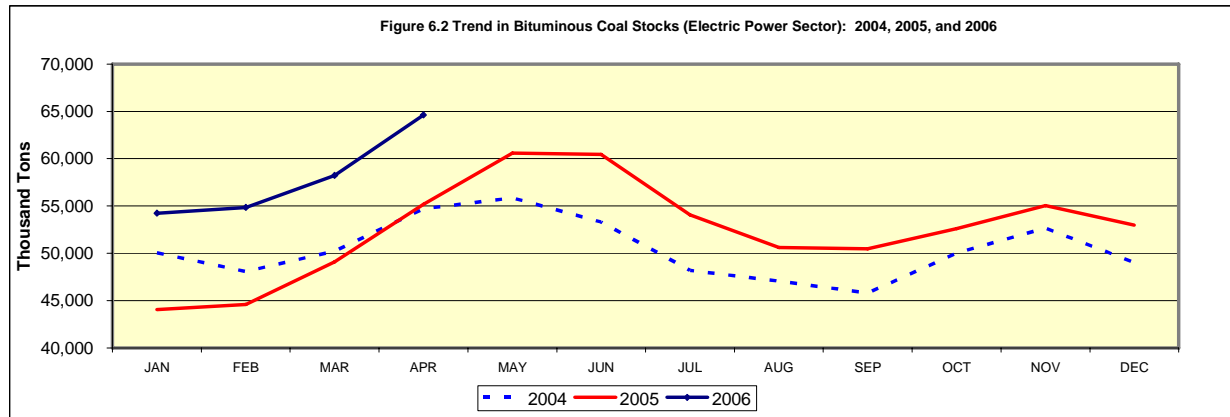
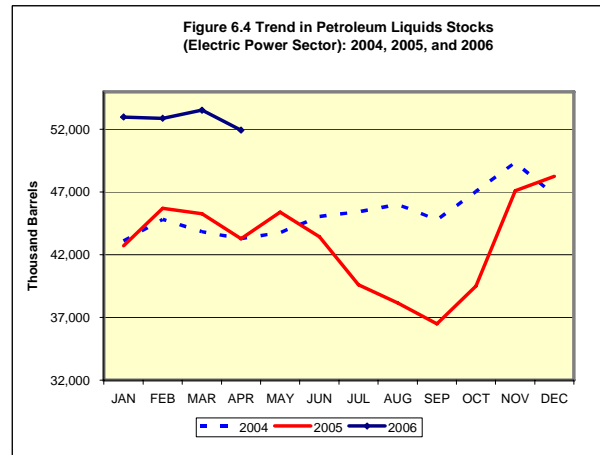
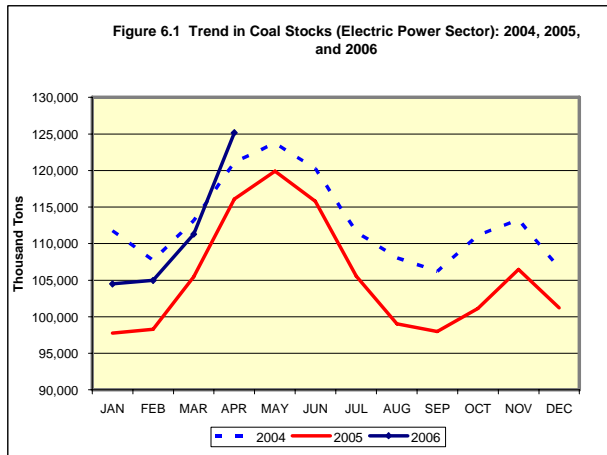


Section 6. Fossil Fuel Stock Trends

Data for:
April 2006

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

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Apr-06	Apr-05	% Change	Mar-06	% Change
Coal, Total (Thousand Short Tons)	125,168	116,088	7.8%	111,299	12.5%
Bituminous (includes anthracite and coal synfuel)	64,608	55,190	17.1%	58,226	11.0%
Subbituminous	56,251	56,899	-1.1%	49,267	14.2%
Lignite	4,309	3,999	7.8%	3,806	13.2%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	51,935	43,293	20.0%	53,536	-3.0%



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

Data for:
April 2006

Retail Sales

Table 7.1 Retail Sales (Million kWh)

Ultimate Customer	Apr-06	Apr-05	% Change	Mar-06	% Change
Residential	89,602	87,135	2.8%	105,306	-14.9%
Commercial	95,945	93,799	2.3%	100,570	-4.6%
Industrial	81,385	82,360	-1.2%	83,048	-2.0%
Transportation	641	646	-0.7%	704	-8.9%
All Sectors	267,573	263,940	1.4%	289,627	-7.6%

Average Retail Price

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

Ultimate Customer	Apr-06	Apr-05	% Change	Mar-06	% Change
Residential	10.31	9.21	11.9%	9.86	4.6%
Commercial	9.14	8.29	10.3%	9.02	1.3%
Industrial	5.88	5.17	13.7%	5.76	2.1%
Transportation	7.41	7.16	3.5%	7.37	0.5%
All Sectors	8.54	7.62	12.1%	8.39	1.8%

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

Census Division	Residential			All Sectors		
	Apr-06	Apr-05	% Change	Apr-06	Apr-05	% Change
New England	16.61	13.28	25.1%	14.20	11.37	24.9%
Middle Atlantic	12.84	11.79	8.9%	10.71	9.95	7.6%
East North Central	9.46	8.50	11.3%	7.43	6.71	10.7%
West North Central	7.95	7.66	3.8%	6.23	6.07	2.6%
South Atlantic	9.70	8.77	10.6%	8.13	7.24	12.3%
East South Central	8.41	7.42	13.3%	6.73	5.76	16.8%
West South Central	11.11	9.30	19.5%	9.01	7.58	18.9%
Mountain	8.68	8.44	2.8%	7.13	6.95	2.6%
Pacific Contiguous	10.99	9.61	14.4%	10.14	8.94	13.4%
Pacific Noncontiguous	19.68	16.69	17.9%	17.61	14.82	18.8%
U.S. Total	10.31	9.21	11.9%	8.54	7.62	12.1%

Section 8. Retail Sales Trends

Data for:
April 2006

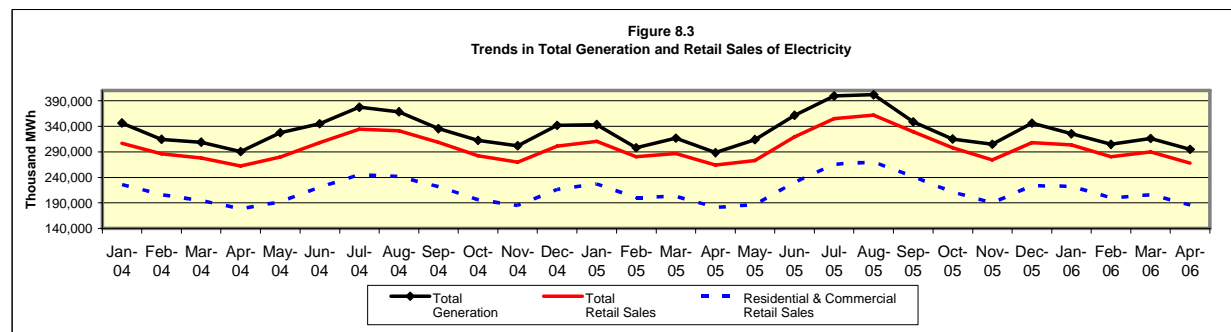
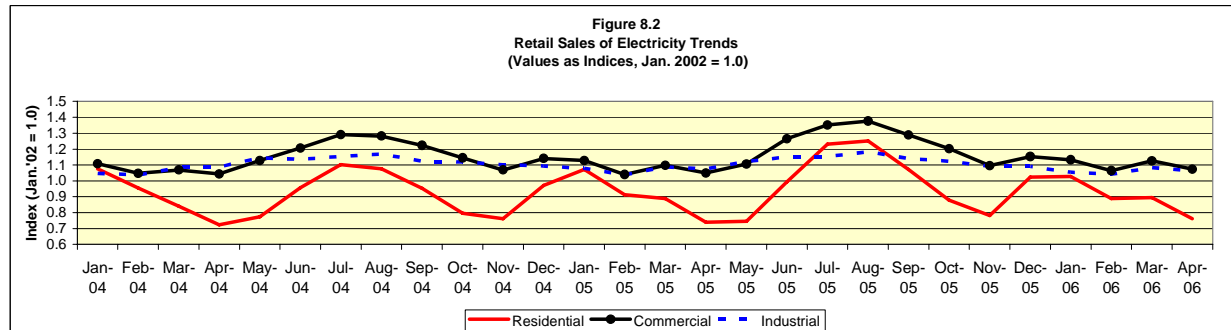
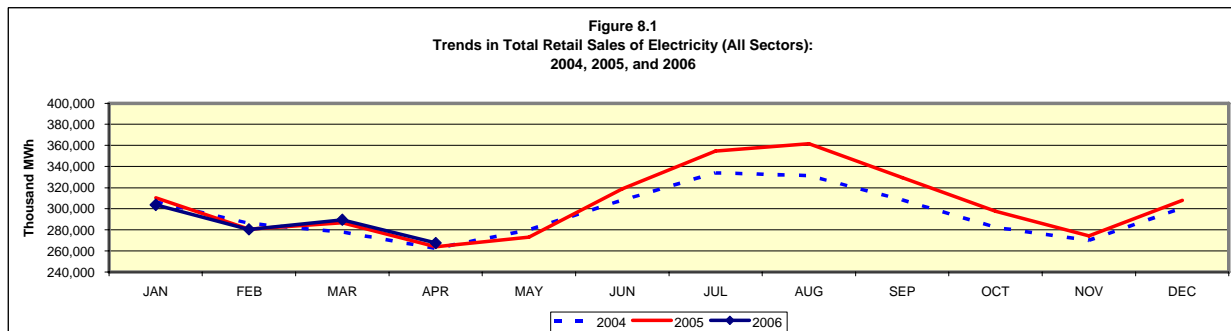
Table 8.1 Trends in Total Retail Sales of Electricity (All Sectors)
Millions of Kilowatthours

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2006	April 2006	420,613	392,931	325,018	2,758	1,141,320
Prior Period	January 2005	April 2005	425,371	385,753	327,826	2,804	1,141,754
Percent Change			-1.1%	1.9%	-0.9%	-1.6%	0.0%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	May 2005	April 2006	1,360,029	1,272,333	1,018,505	8,225	3,659,093
Prior Period	May 2004	April 2005	1,295,467	1,233,429	1,020,337	7,528	3,556,761
Percent Change			5.0%	3.2%	-0.2%	9.3%	2.9%



Section 9. Average Retail Price Trends

**Data for:
April 2006**

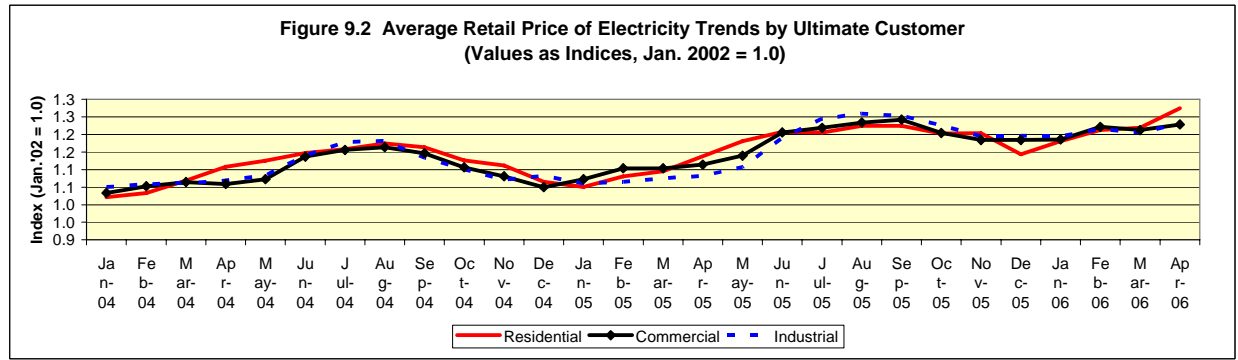
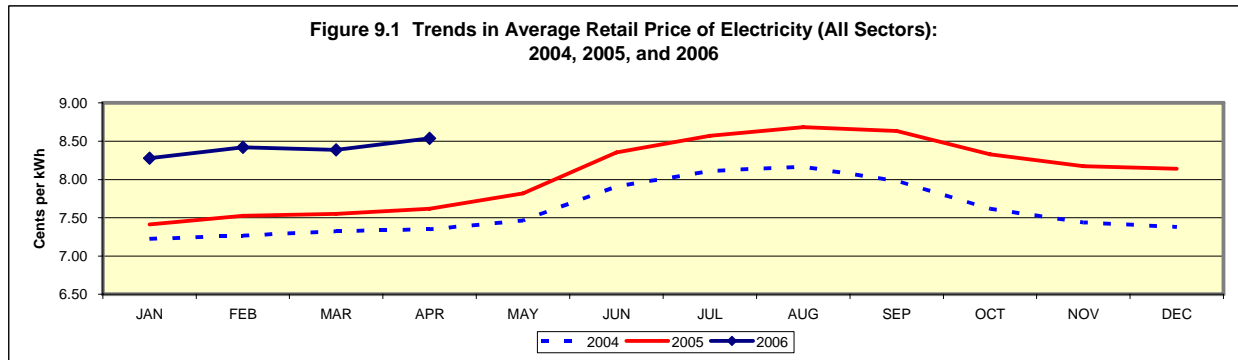
**Table 9.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors)
Cents Per Kilowatthours**

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2006	April 2006	9.85	9.01	5.79	7.33	8.40
Prior Period	January 2005	April 2005	8.79	8.17	5.12	7.04	7.52
Percent Change			12.1%	10.3%	13.1%	4.1%	11.7%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	May 2005	April 2006	9.76	8.97	5.78	7.52	8.37
Prior Period	May 2004	April 2005	9.06	8.26	5.28	7.17	7.70
Percent Change			7.7%	8.6%	9.5%	4.9%	8.7%



Section 10. Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Data for:
April 2006

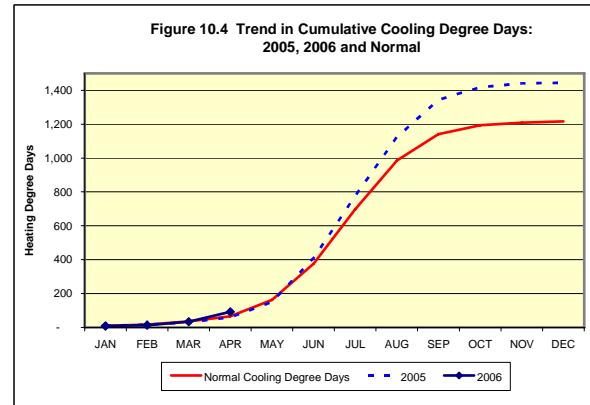
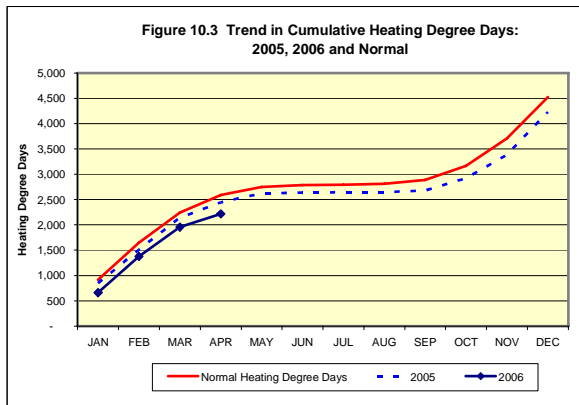
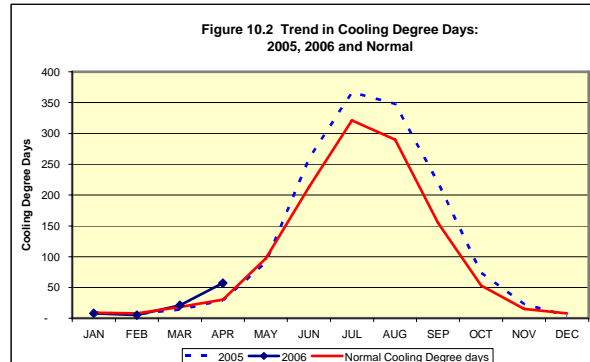
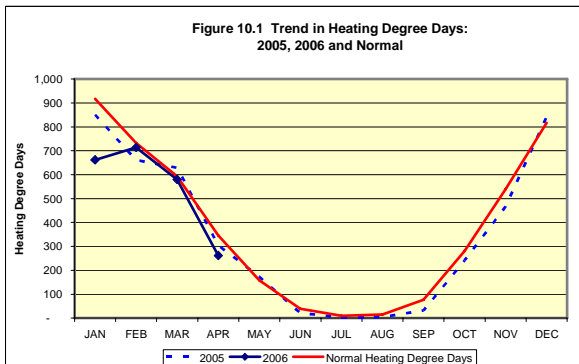
Table 10.1 Degree Days

	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	April 2006	262	345	-83	57	30	27
Previous Period	April 2005	304	345	-41	29	30	-1
Percent Change		-13.8%			96.6%		

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	April 2006	2,218	91
Prior Period	January 2005	April 2005	2,445	59
Percent Change			-9.3%	54.2%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	May 2005	April 2006	4,002	1,477
Prior Period	May 2004	April 2005	4,154	1,241
Percent Change			-3.7%	19.0%



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).