

Monthly Flash Estimates of **Electric Power Data**

**Data for
March
2005**

Table 1. Key Indicators

Change From:	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
February 2005	6.6%	1.0%	6.0%
March 2004	3.6%	-2.7%	-0.3%
Year to Date:	-0.6%	-3.0%	2.0%
Latest 12 Month Period*	1.2%	1.4%	-2.7%

Change From:	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
February 2005	18.1%	4.3%	6.4%
March 2004	5.2%	6.9%	-7.3%
Year to Date:	0.0%	1.1%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	6.0%	1.4%	n/a

* Change in total consumption or generation for the latest 12 month period (April 2004 to March 2005) compared to the prior 12 month period (April 2003 to March 2004).

This report was prepared by the Energy Information Administration, the independent statistical and analytical agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. The information contained herein should be attributed to the Energy Information Administration and should not be construed as advocating or reflecting any policy of the Department of Energy or any other organization. For additional information, contact Orhan Yildiz at 202-287-1586, or at orhan.yildiz@eia.doe.gov.



Month-to-Month Comparisons: Generation, Consumption & Stocks

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 2. Net Generation Total (All Sectors)					
Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Mar-05	Mar-04	% Change	Feb-05	% Change
Coal	163,484	153,572	6.5%	155,676	5.0%
Petroleum Liquids	6,421	7,966	-19.4%	5,513	16.5%
Natural Gas	53,005	48,947	8.3%	45,065	17.6%
Nuclear	61,539	63,263	-2.7%	60,947	1.0%
Hydroelectric Conventional	22,842	22,905	-0.3%	21,542	6.0%
All Other	10,524	10,060	4.6%	9,405	11.9%
Total (All Energy Sources)	317,814	306,712	3.6%	298,148	6.6%

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

Table 3. Consumption of Fossil Fuels for Electric Generation Total (All Sectors)					
	Mar-05	Mar-04	% Change	Feb-05	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	84,558	79,093	6.9%	81,107	4.3%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	10,912	13,524	-19.3%	9,344	16.8%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	446,581	424,402	5.2%	378,145	18.1%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 4. Fossil Fuel Stocks (Total, Electric Power Sector)					
	Mar-05	Mar-04	% Change	Feb-05	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	104,990	113,237	-7.3%	98,648	6.4%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	43,627	43,466	0.4%	44,167	-1.2%

Notes:

- **Coal consumption and generation** includes subbituminous coal, bituminous coal, anthracite, lignite, waste coal and synthetic coal (synfuel).
- **Coal stocks** includes the coal categories listed immediately above except for waste coal.
- **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.

Month-to-Month Comparisons: Electric Power Sales and Prices

Retail Sales

Table 5. Retail Sales (Million Kwh)					
	Mar-05	Mar-04	% Change	Feb-05	% Change
Residential	103,756	99,047	4.8%	107,250	-3.3%
Commercial	98,114	95,223	3.0%	93,455	5.0%
Industrial	84,263	83,353	1.1%	80,444	4.7%
Transportation	675	606	11.4%	719	-6.1%
All Sectors	286,809	278,229	3.1%	281,869	1.8%

Average Retail Price

Table 6. Average Retail Price (Cents/kWh)					
	Mar-05	Mar-04	% Change	Feb-05	% Change
Residential	8.9	8.6	2.8%	8.7	1.6%
Commercial	8.2	7.9	2.8%	8.2	0.0%
Industrial	5.2	4.9	5.1%	5.2	0.2%
Transportation	6.7	6.3	6.5%	7.1	-5.4%
All Sectors	7.5	7.3	3.6%	7.5	0.3%

Commentary

Generation in March 2005 was up by 6.6 percent from February 2005. This growth is less impressive than it may seem on its face. March had three more days than February (11 percent longer) so the gain of 6.6 percent is actually modest, reflecting milder weather in March compared to February. In contrast, March 2005 was colder than March 2004, helping to explain the 3.6 percent growth in generation between those months. (Heating degree days are displayed in Table 9 and Figure 9 on page 6.)

Natural gas generation and consumption has been generally increasing robustly. Consumption is up 5.2 percent from March 2004 and up 6 percent for the latest rolling 12 month period. While gas consumption is flat year-to-date compared to 2004, weather has been milder for the first quarter of 2005 than in 2004. The rolling 12 month trends suggest that an increase in electricity demand will be met in large part from the inventory of new gas-fired generators, spurring a significant increase in gas burn.

Coal generation is up only 0.1 percent for 2005 year-to-date and consumption grew only 1.1 percent during that period. The nearly flat trends in coal burn contributed to rebuilding of stocks, which grew by 6.4 percent from February 2005. Coal stocks are still 7.3 percent lower than in March 2005. Hydroelectric generation was only slightly lower than in March 2004 (down 0.3 percent), perhaps indicative of easing drought conditions. Nuclear generation is down 3.0 percent year-to-date.

March 2005 retail sales of electricity were up by 3.1 percent from March 2004. Growth from February 2005 was 1.8 percent. Residential sales, on the other hand were down by 3.3 percent following a normal pattern of transition to a milder season. Commercial and Industrial accounted for the overall growth, with both sectors growing by about 5 percent. The average retail price of power was 7.3 percent higher than in March 2004.

Net Generation Trends

Table 7. Trends in Generation by Fuel (Total, 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 2005	March 2005	496,337	22,155	149,447	192,314	68,592	30,378	959,223
Prior Period	January 2004	March 2004	495,693	28,604	145,888	198,171	67,269	29,268	964,893
Percent Change			0.1%	-22.5%	2.4%	-3.0%	2.0%	3.8%	-0.6%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	April 2004	March 2005	1,976,975	92,580	703,170	782,697	270,958	121,355	3,947,735
Prior Period	April 2003	March 2004	1,976,132	100,734	655,374	771,819	278,492	119,970	3,902,521
Percent Change			0.0%	-8.1%	7.3%	1.4%	-2.7%	1.2%	1.2%

Figure 1. Trend in Total Net Generation (All Sectors):
2003, 2004, and 2005

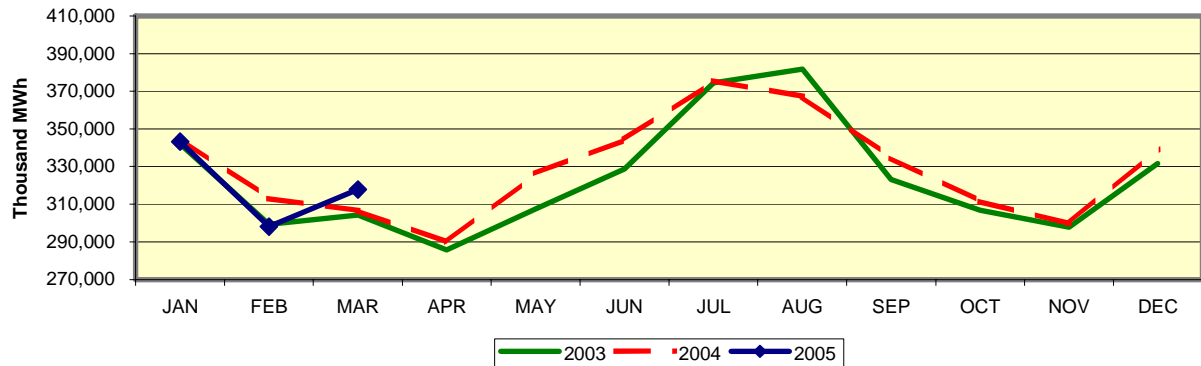


Figure 2. Fossil Fuel Generation Trends
(Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

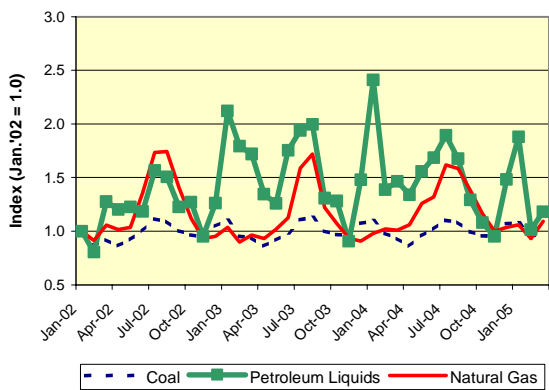
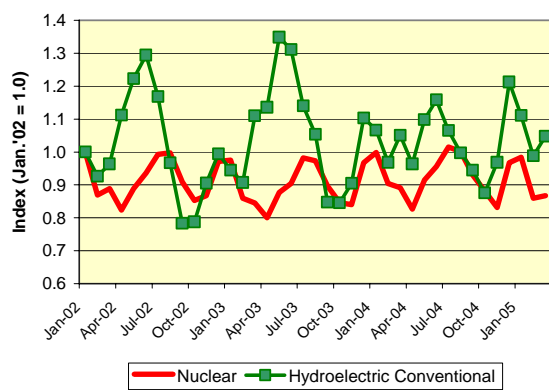


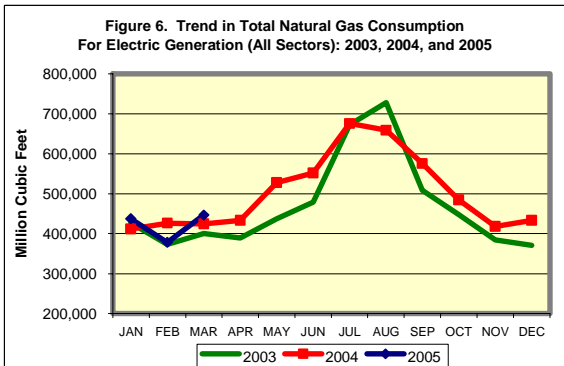
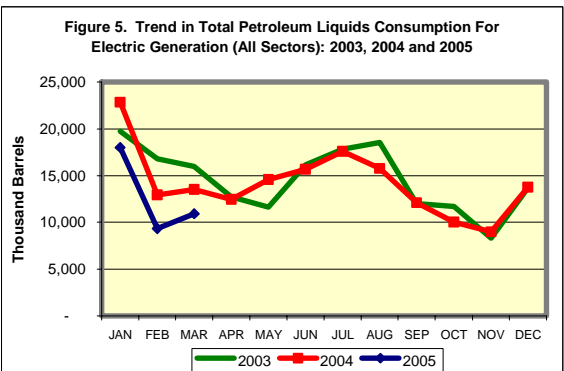
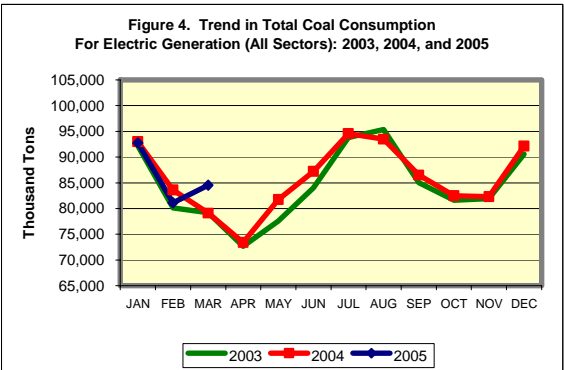
Figure 3. Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends
(Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



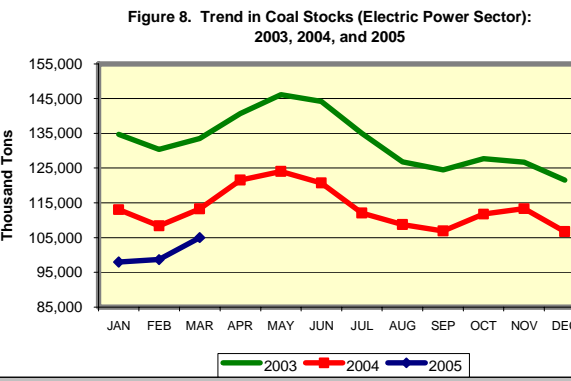
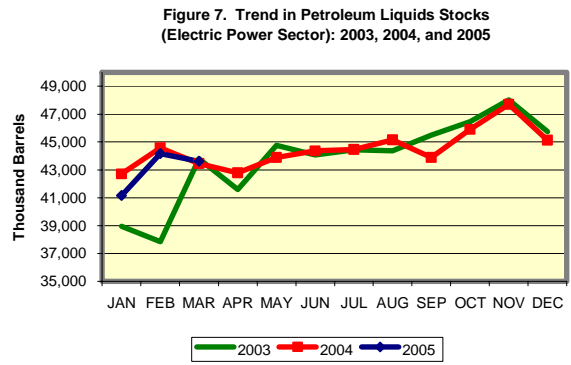
Fossil Fuel Consumption Trends

Table 8. 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 2005	March 2005	258,437	38,271	1,262,503
Prior Period	January 2004	March 2004	255,725	49,298	1,262,490
Percent Change			1.1%	-22.4%	0.0%
Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period					
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	April 2004	March 2005	1,032,275	159,220	6,020,346
Prior Period	April 2003	March 2004	1,018,287	171,914	5,678,341
Percent Change			1.4%	-7.4%	6.0%



Stocks Trends



Note: the Stocks data table is on page 2 of the report.

Degree Days

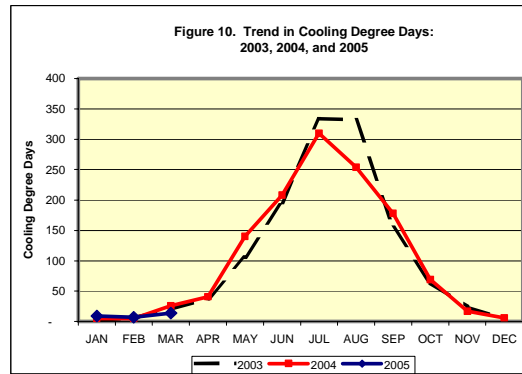
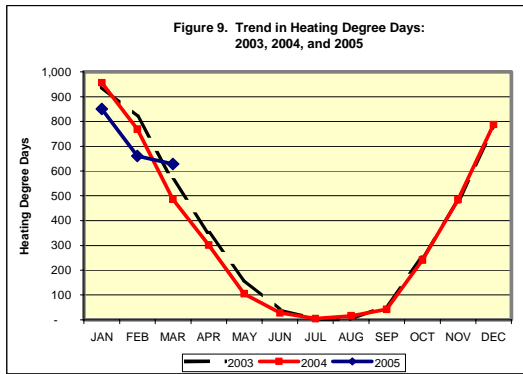


Table 9. Trends in Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Year-to-Date Comparison				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	January 2005	March 2005	2,141	30
Prior Period	January 2004	March 2004	2,213	36
Percent Change			-3.3%	-16.7%
Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	April 2004	March 2005	4,152	1,253
Prior Period	April 2003	March 2004	4,330	1,289
Percent Change			-4.1%	-2.8%

Documentation

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 EIA-826, approximately 450 electric utilities and other energy service providers; for the EIA-920, approximately 300 combined heat and power (CHP) plants; and for the 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 2.