

Monthly Flash Estimates of **Electric Power Data**

**Data for:
March 2007**

Section 1. Commentary

During March 2007, the contiguous U.S. experienced the second warmest March over the 1895-2007 time period. Heating degree days were 15.7 percent lower than normal, as measured over the 1971-2000 time period, and 16.7 percent lower than March 2006.

Despite the unseasonably warm March, retail sales of electricity increased 0.8 percent compared to March 2006, while March 2007 generation of electric power increased 0.9 percent over March 2006. These increases were primarily due to economic growth, evident by a 2.1-percent increase in the real gross domestic product for the U.S. in the first quarter of 2007 over the first quarter of 2006. The average U.S. retail price of electricity for March 2007 showed a 5.0-percent increase from March 2006. For the twelve month period ending March 2007, the U.S. average retail price increased by 7.2 percent over the previous twelve month period ending March 2006.

Electricity generation in March 2007 from all major fuel categories saw little change from March 2006. The exception was petroleum liquids which increased 79.3 percent, as petroleum liquid-fired generators drew on reserves that were purchased at lower prices than current petroleum liquid prices. Coal generation in March 2007 decreased 0.9 percent from the previous year, natural gas generation increased 4.4 percent, nuclear generation increased 0.9 percent, and hydroelectric generation was down 2.2 percent from the prior year.

In the electric power sector, March 2007 coal stocks were up 5.9 percent from February 2007. The February 2007-to-March 2007 increase in coal stocks consisted of a 5.6-percent increase for subbituminous, a 6.2-percent increase in bituminous, and a 5.0-percent increase in lignite. However, total coal stocks showed even greater year-over-year percentage growth, increasing 26.5 percent from March 2006. These increases in coal stocks can be attributed to the seasonal build-up beginning at the month of March. As a result of the increased year-over-year petroleum liquids generation observed in March 2007, petroleum liquids stocks decreased 19.9 percent from March 2006 levels.

References:

Economic data - <http://www.bea.gov/national/>

Weather data - <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2007/s2838.htm>

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Section 2. Key Indicators of Generation, Consumption & Stocks

Data for:
March 2007

Table 2.1 Key Generation Indicators

	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
Total Change From:			
February 2007	-0.8%	-1.4%	29.7%
March 2006	0.9%	0.9%	-2.2%
Year to Date	4.6%	2.7%	-10.5%
Latest 12 Month Period*	1.2%	0.6%	0.5%

Table 2.2 Key Consumption and Stocks Indicators

	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
Total Change From:			
February 2007	-1.4%	-2.1%	5.9%
March 2006	3.3%	-1.4%	26.5%
Year to Date	20.2%	2.0%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	10.6%	-0.1%	n/a

* Change in total consumption or generation for the latest 12 month period (April 2006 to March 2007) compared to the prior 12 month period (April 2005 to March 2006).

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

Data for:
March 2007

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.1 Total Net Generation (All Sectors)

Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Mar-07	Mar-06	% Change	Feb-07	% Change
Coal	159,470	160,858	-0.9%	162,902	-2.1%
Petroleum Liquids	4,144	2,311	79.3%	7,476	-44.6%
Natural Gas	56,426	54,042	4.4%	57,823	-2.4%
Nuclear	64,305	63,721	0.9%	65,225	-1.4%
Hydroelectric Conventional	24,167	24,723	-2.2%	18,633	29.7%
All Other	12,018	12,050	-0.3%	11,024	9.0%
Total (All Energy Sources)	320,530	317,706	0.9%	323,083	-0.8%

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	Mar-07	Mar-06	% Change	Feb-07	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	82,206	83,364	-1.4%	83,972	-2.1%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	6,988	4,055	72.3%	12,729	-45.1%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	470,756	455,797	3.3%	477,504	-1.4%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 3.3 Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Mar-07	Mar-06	% Change	Feb-07	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	141,173	111,579	26.5%	133,325	5.9%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	42,022	52,450	-19.9%	42,749	-1.7%

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:
March 2007

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 2007	March 2007	498,161	15,985	173,871	203,536	69,112	34,899	995,564
Prior Period	January 2006	March 2006	488,296	9,612	143,154	198,248	77,238	35,207	951,755
Percent Difference			2.0%	66.3%	21.5%	2.7%	-10.5%	-0.9%	4.6%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	April 2006	March 2007	1,997,088	49,716	838,314	792,507	280,180	138,971	4,096,776
Prior Period	April 2005	March 2006	2,004,937	87,344	753,647	787,921	278,744	135,505	4,048,098
Percent Difference			-0.4%	-43.1%	11.2%	0.6%	0.5%	2.6%	1.2%

Figure 4.1 Trends in Total Net Generation (All Sectors): 2005, 2006, and 2007

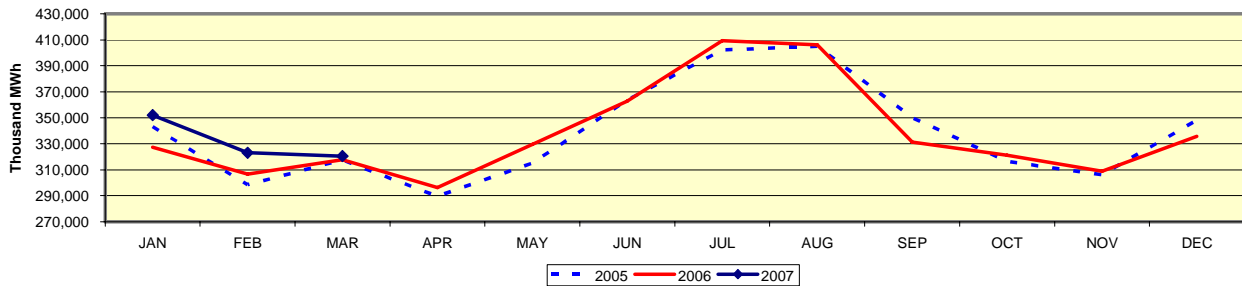


Figure 4.2 Fossil Fuel Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

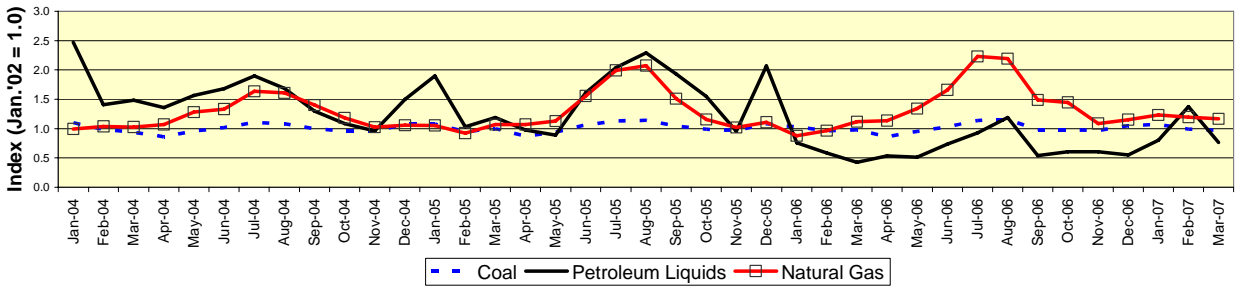
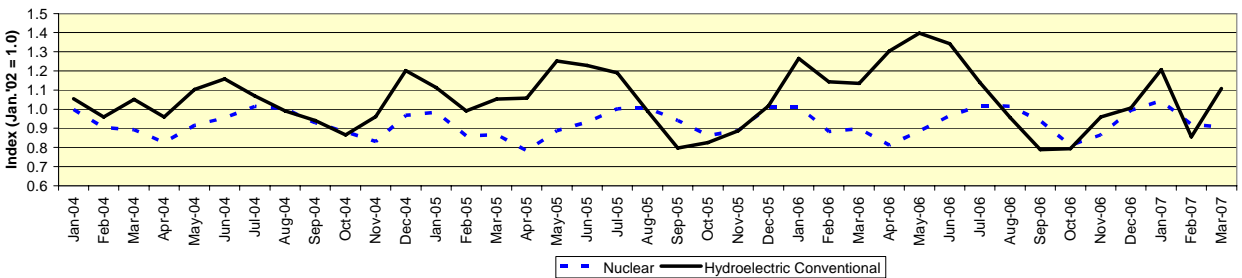


Figure 4.3 Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 5. Fossil Fuel Consumption Trends

Data for:
March 2007

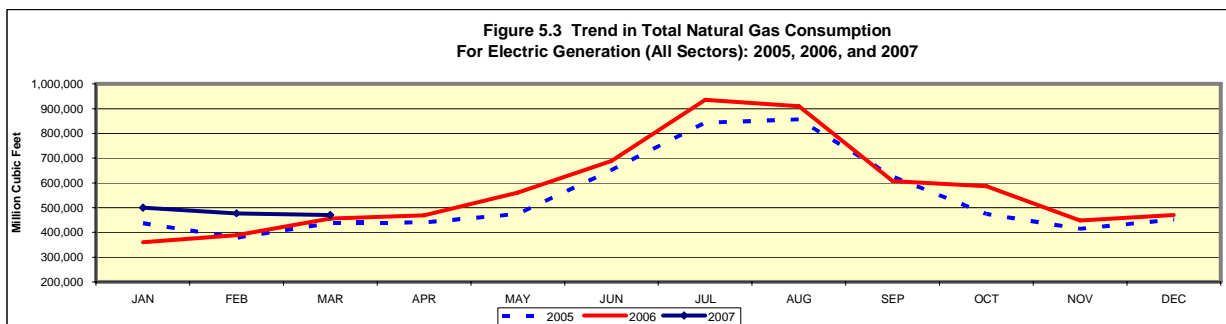
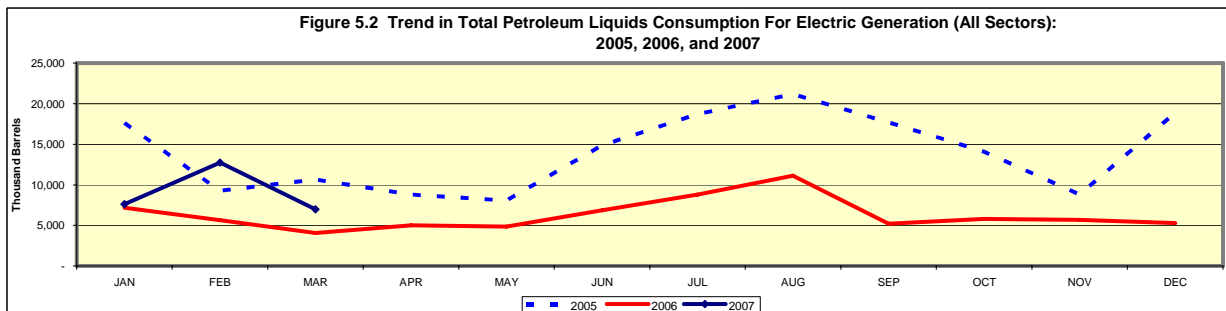
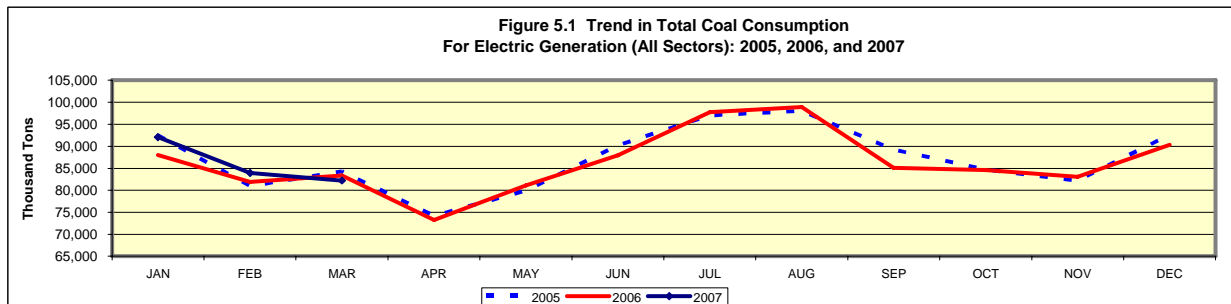
Table 5.1 Trends in Fossil Fuel Consumption For Electric Generation, Total (All Sectors)

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	January 2007	March 2007	258,279	27,340	1,448,420
Prior Period	January 2006	March 2006	253,289	16,865	1,205,195
Percent Difference			2.0%	62.1%	20.2%

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 2006	March 2007	1,040,459	86,110	7,121,312
Prior Period	April 2005	March 2006	1,041,415	147,998	6,439,175
Percent Difference			-0.1%	-41.8%	10.6%

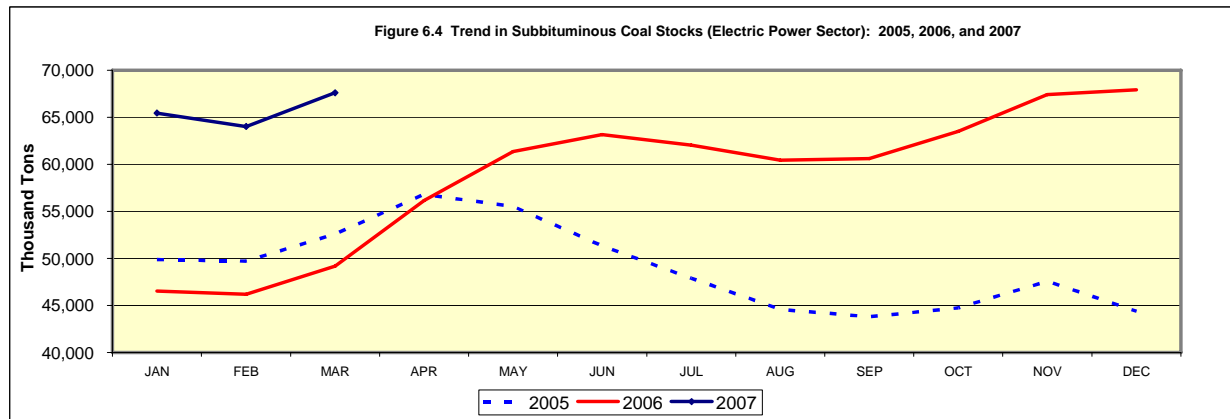
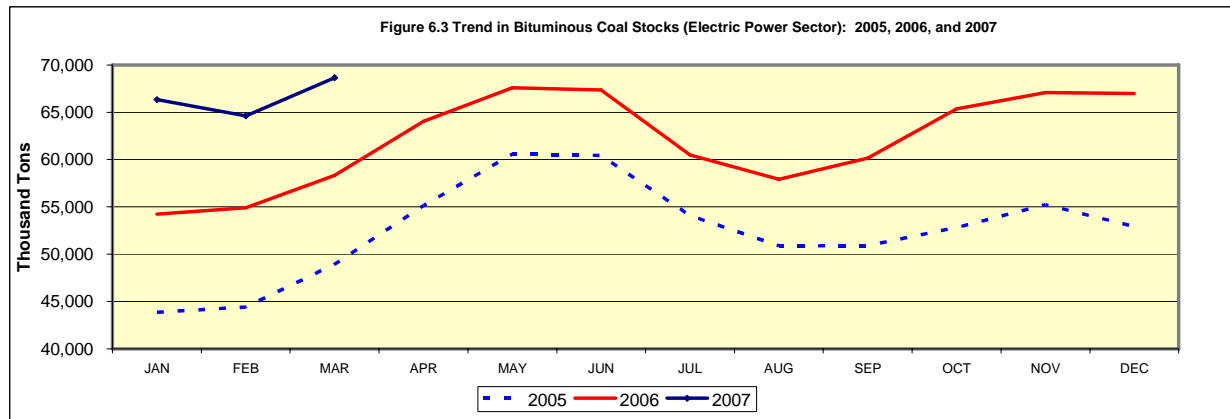
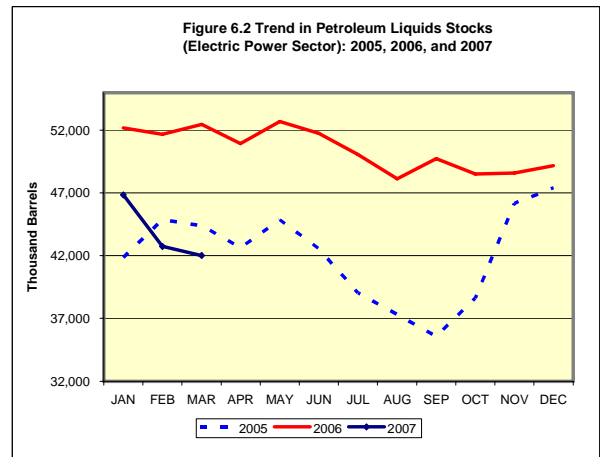
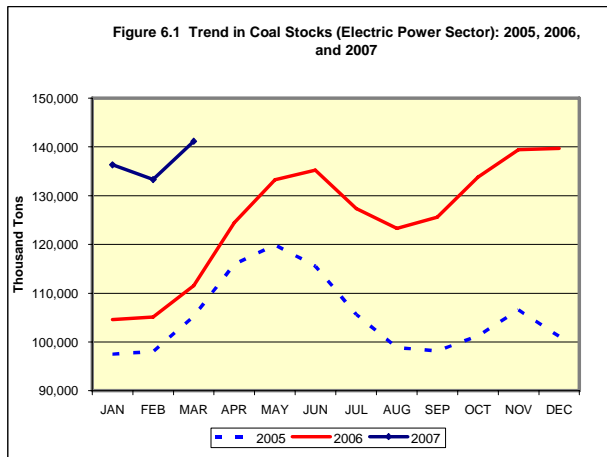


Section 6. Fossil Fuel Stock Trends

Data for:
March 2007

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

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Mar-07	Mar-06	% Change	Feb-07	% Change
Coal, Total (Thousand Short Tons)	141,173	111,579	26.5%	133,325	5.9%
Bituminous (includes anthracite and coal symfuel)	68,647	58,325	17.7%	64,617	6.2%
Subbituminous	67,618	49,180	37.5%	64,036	5.6%
Lignite	4,908	4,073	20.5%	4,673	5.0%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	42,022	52,450	-19.9%	42,749	-1.7%



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

Data for:
March 2007

Retail Sales

Table 7.1 Retail Sales (Million kWh)

Ultimate Customer	Mar-07	Mar-06	% Change	Feb-07	% Change
Residential	105,819	105,197	0.6%	121,613	-13.0%
Commercial	103,558	101,274	2.3%	101,978	1.5%
Industrial	81,592	82,354	-0.9%	76,893	6.1%
Transportation	777	704	10.3%	737	5.4%
All Sectors	291,746	289,529	0.8%	301,221	-3.1%

Average Retail Price

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

Ultimate Customer	Mar-07	Mar-06	% Change	Feb-07	% Change
Residential	10.29	9.84	4.6%	9.88	4.1%
Commercial	9.40	8.97	4.8%	9.28	1.3%
Industrial	6.16	5.82	5.8%	6.20	-0.6%
Transportation	9.73	8.50	14.5%	9.65	0.8%
All Sectors	8.81	8.39	5.0%	8.74	0.8%

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

Census Division	Residential			All Sectors		
	Mar-07	Mar-06	% Change	Mar-07	Mar-06	% Change
New England	17.09	16.14	5.9%	15.33	14.58	5.1%
Middle Atlantic	13.05	12.37	5.5%	11.67	10.62	9.9%
East North Central	9.38	8.76	7.1%	7.74	7.21	7.4%
West North Central	7.74	7.39	4.7%	6.40	6.07	5.4%
South Atlantic	9.53	9.24	3.1%	8.29	8.00	3.6%
East South Central	7.98	7.76	2.8%	6.64	6.35	4.6%
West South Central	11.19	10.70	4.6%	9.21	8.94	3.0%
Mountain	8.74	8.49	2.9%	7.29	7.15	2.0%
Pacific Contiguous	10.90	10.74	1.5%	9.91	9.69	2.3%
Pacific Noncontiguous	18.60	19.16	-2.9%	16.54	17.21	-3.9%
U.S. Total	10.29	9.84	4.6%	8.81	8.39	5.0%

Section 8. Retail Sales Trends

Data for:
March 2007

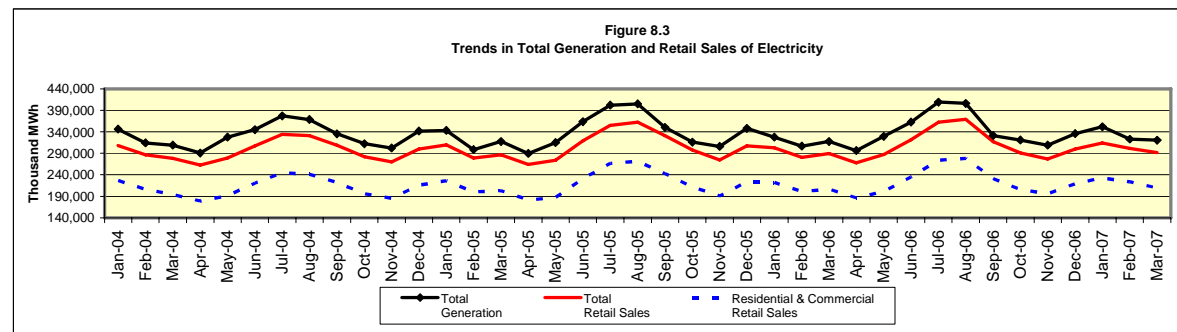
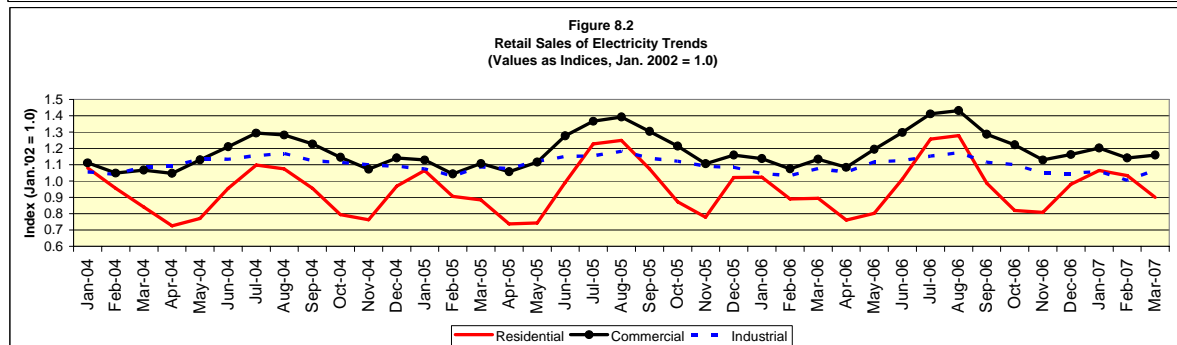
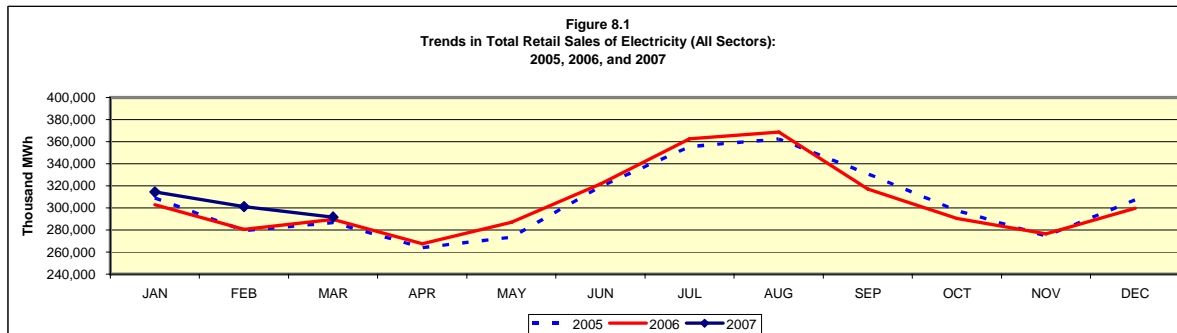
Table 8.1 Trends in Total Retail Sales of Electricity (All Sectors)
Millions of Kilowatthours

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2007	March 2007	352,735	312,963	239,552	2,218	907,468
Prior Period	January 2006	March 2006	330,456	298,873	241,562	2,115	873,006
Percent Difference			6.7%	4.7%	-0.8%	4.9%	3.9%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	April 2006	March 2007	1,376,512	1,314,941	999,919	8,189	3,699,561
Prior Period	April 2005	March 2006	1,353,663	1,280,909	1,016,357	7,661	3,658,591
Percent Difference			1.7%	2.7%	-1.6%	6.9%	1.1%



Section 9. Average Retail Price Trends

Data for:
March 2007

**Table 9.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors)
Cents per Kilowatthour**

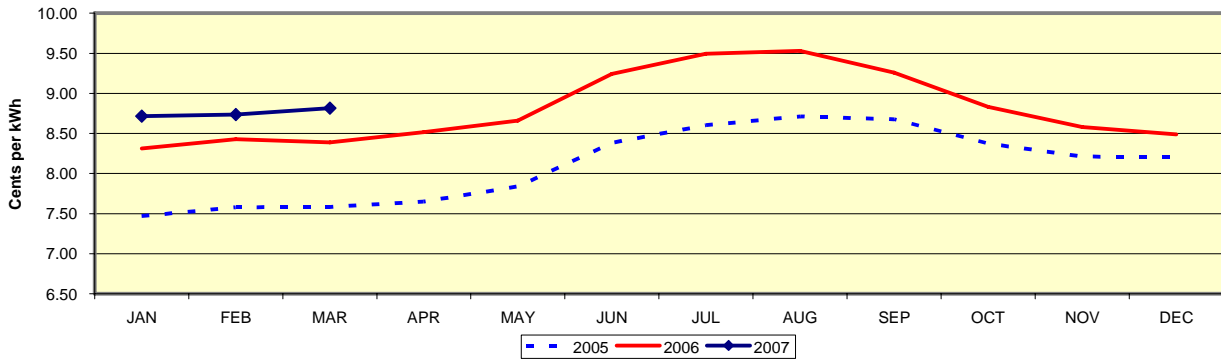
Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2007	March 2007	10.06	9.26	6.16	9.63	8.76
Prior Period	January 2006	March 2006	9.73	8.94	5.83	8.46	8.38
Percent Difference			3.4%	3.6%	5.7%	13.8%	4.5%

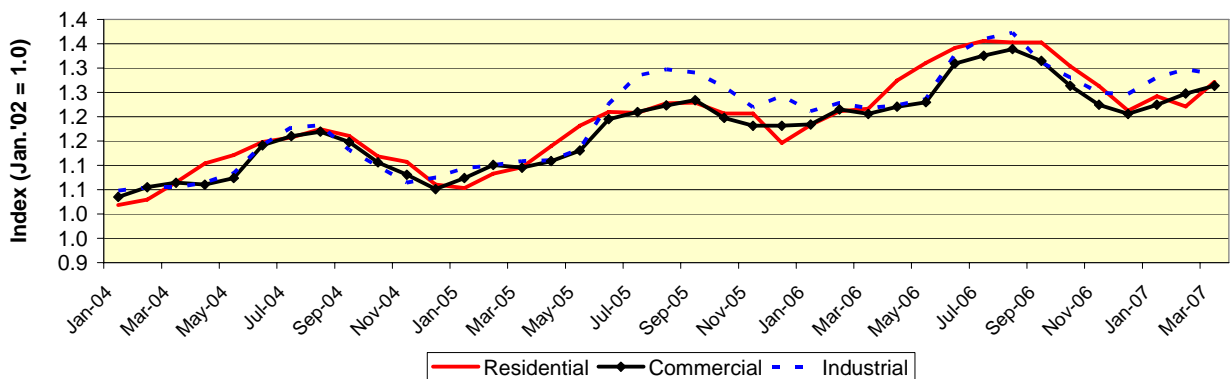
Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	April 2006	March 2007	10.47	9.43	6.17	9.37	8.94
Prior Period	April 2005	March 2006	9.70	8.86	5.87	8.68	8.34
Percent Difference			7.9%	6.4%	5.1%	7.9%	7.2%

**Figure 9.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors):
2005, 2006, and 2007**



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



Section 10. Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Data for:
March 2007

Table 10.1 Degree Days

		Heating Degree Days				Cooling Degree Days			
	Month	Heating Degree Days	Normal Heating Degree Days	Deviation From Normal	Percent Difference From Normal	Cooling Degree Days	Normal Cooling Degree Days	Deviation From Normal	Percent Difference From Normal
Current Period	March 2007	500	593	-93	-15.7%	25	18	7	38.9%
Prior Period	March 2006	600	593	7	1.2%	18	18	0	0.0%
Percent Difference		-16.7%				38.9%			

Table 10.2 Trends in Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Year-to-Date Comparison					Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days		Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	January 2007	March 2007	2,182	37	Current Period	April 2006	March 2007	4,160	1,369
Prior Period	January 2006	March 2006	2,018	36	Prior Period	April 2005	March 2006	4,150	1,404
Percent Difference			8.1%	2.8%	Percent Difference			0.2%	-2.5%

Figure 10.1 Deviation From Normal: Heating Degree Days, 2007

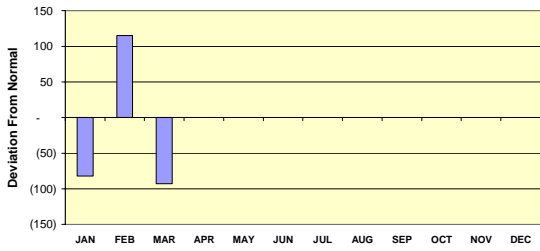


Figure 10.2 Deviation From Normal: Cooling Degree Days, 2007

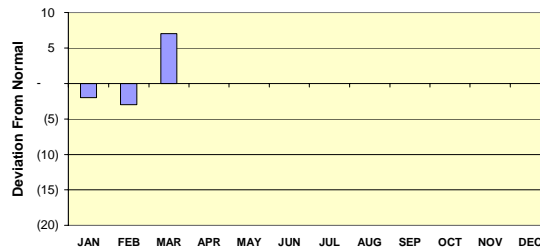


Figure 10.3 Trend in Heating Degree Days: 2006, 2007, and Normal

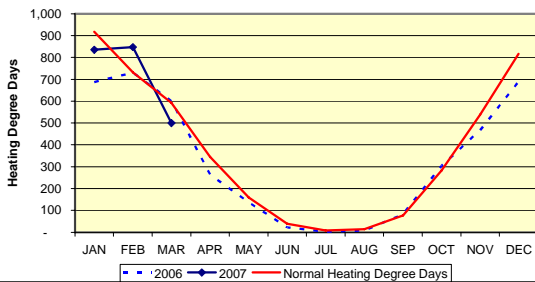


Figure 10.4 Trend in Cooling Degree Days: 2006, 2007, and Normal

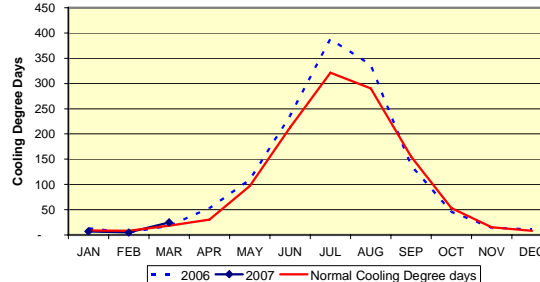


Figure 10.5 Trend in Cumulative Heating Degree Days: 2006, 2007, and Normal

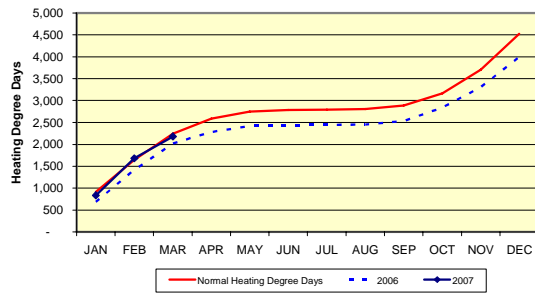
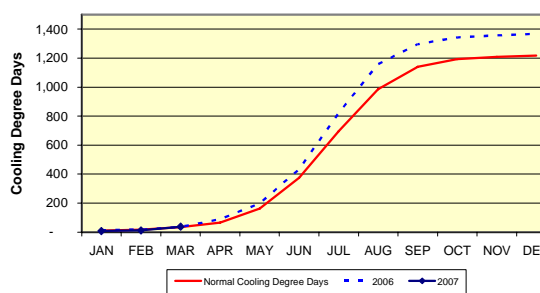


Figure 10.6 Trend in Cumulative Cooling Degree Days: 2006, 2007, and Normal



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).