Monthly Flash Estimates of

Electric Power Data

Data for: August 2006

Section 1. Commentary

Year-to-date net electric generation through August 2006 was 0.8 percent higher compared to year-to-date generation through August 2005. Comparing month-to-month, August 2006 net generation was 0.1 percent higher than August 2005, and 2.4 percent lower than July 2006. The higher net generation above last year was influenced by a continued strong economy and warmer than normal August weather. The index of industrial production was 4.7 percent higher comparing August 2006 to August 2005, but eased down, by 0.2 percent, between July 2006 and August 2006.

Setting a new high, the national average retail price of electricity for August 2006 was 9.52 cents per kilowatthour. Comparing year-to-date August 2006 and August 2005, retail sales of electricity were up by 1.3 percent and August 2006 retail sales were 1.9 percent higher than August 2005. The average retail price of electricity was up by 10.8 percent year-to-date, although fuel costs have been moderating. The continuing increase in average retail electricity prices is due to the regulatory lag in passing through the earlier higher fuel costs, and the expiration of retail price caps in some deregulated electricity markets around the country.

In August 2006 coal generation reached its summer peak and was 1.0 percent higher than July 2006, as well as 0.8 percent higher than August 2005. Natural gas-fired generation slowed from its peak July 2006 high during August 2006 and was down 7.7 percent, although it was still 5.2 percent higher than August 2005. Through August 2006, natural gas-fired generation was up a strong 7.3 percent year-to-date. As a consequence of higher global oil prices, petroleum liquid fired generation declined 51.9 percent year-to-date and dropped by 48.0 percent comparing August 2005 to August 2006.

Comparing August 2006 to August 2005, nuclear generation, which continues to experience fewer days lost to planned and forced maintenance, was 0.9 percent higher. In August 2006 conventional hydroelectric generation continued to see a seasonal decrease, and was down 15.6 percent from July 2006. It was also down 4.3 percent from August 2005.

Bituminous and subbituminous coal stocks were, respectively, 13.7 percent and 35.8 percent higher comparing August 2005 and August 2006. Subbituminous coal stocks have essentially recovered from last summer's rail delivery constraints and stand above the August 2004 level. For August 2006, bituminous stocks were 57.8 million tons and subbituminous stocks were 60.5 million tons. As expected, to meet the high summer demand for generation both coal and petroleum liquids stockpiles in the electric power sector were drawn down, resulting in a 3.2-percent decrease in coal inventories and a 3.8 percent decrease in petroleum liquids inventories from July 2006. However, comparing August 2006 to August 2005, overall coal inventories were up 24.7 percent and petroleum liquids inventories were up 31.1 percent.

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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.

Section 2. Key Indicators of Generation, Consumption & Stocks

Data for: August 2006

Table 2.1 Key Generation Indicators

	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
Total Change From:			
July 2006	-2.4%	-0.2%	-15.6%
August 2005	0.1%	0.9%	-4.3%
Year to Date	0.8%	2.3%	7.6%
Latest 12 Month Period*	1.2%	2.4%	1.7%

Table 2.2 Key Consumption and Stocks Indicators

	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
Total Change From:			
July 2006	-9.2%	1.1%	-3.2%
August 2005	6.1%	1.0%	24.7%
Year to Date	7.3%	-0.5%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	5.4%	0.2%	n/a

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

Note: In this issue of the Monthly Flash Estimates, the generation, consumption and stock data have been revised for 2005 and are consistent with the recently published Electric Power Annual 2005.

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

Data for: August 2006

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.1 Total Net Generation (All Sectors)

Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Aug-06	Aug-05	% Change	Jul-06	% Change
Coal	189,138	187,592	0.8%	187,315	1.0%
Petroleum Liquids	6,472	12,450	-48.0%	5,058	28.0%
Natural Gas	105,634	100,407	5.2%	114,430	-7.7%
Nuclear	72,016	71,382	0.9%	72,186	-0.2%
Hydroelectric Conventional	20,633	21,552	-4.3%	24,436	-15.6%
All Other	11,447	11,546	-0.9%	11,721	-2.3%
Total (All Energy Sources)	405,342	404,927	0.1%	415,147	-2.4%

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	Aug-06	Aug-05	% Change	Jul-06	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	99,012	98,043	1.0%	97,905	1.1%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	11,280	21,156	-46.7%	8,912	26.6%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	909,727	857,119	6.1%	1,002,313	-9.2%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 3.3 Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Aug-06	Aug-05	% Change	Jul-06	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	123,299	98,879	24.7%	127,421	-3.2%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	48,937	37,322	31.1%	50,847	-3.8%

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: August 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	August 2006	1,330,945	31,146	564,566	531,185	207,750	89,905	2,755,497
Prior Period	January 2005	August 2005	1,342,227	64,764	525,939	519,364	193,047	88,839	2,734,180
Percent Difference			-0.8%	-51.9%	7.3%	2.3%	7.6%	1.2%	0.8%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	September 2005	August 2006	2,001,896	66,477	796,601	793,807	284,289	132,935	4,076,005
Prior Period	September 2004	August 2005	1,998,371	91,071	751,729	775,384	279,583	130,164	4,026,302
Percent Difference			0.2%	-27.0%	6.0%	2.4%	1.7%	2.1%	1.2%

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

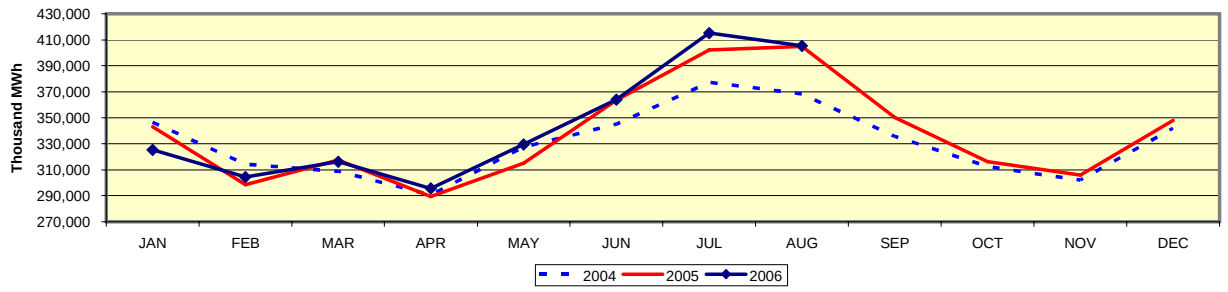


Figure 4.2 Fossil Fuel Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

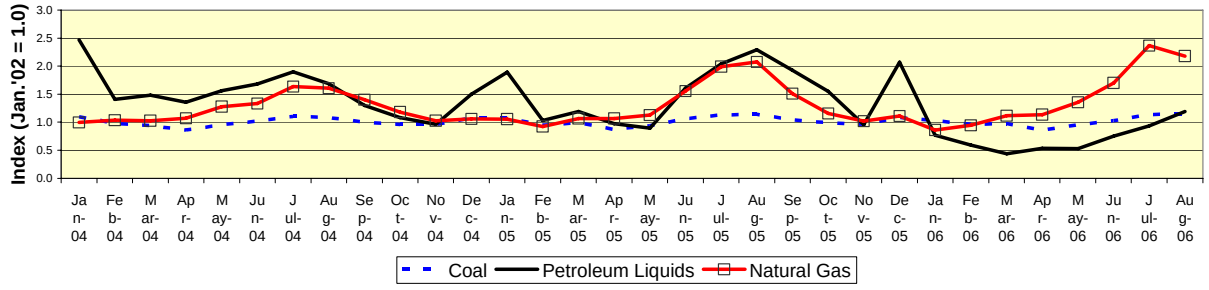
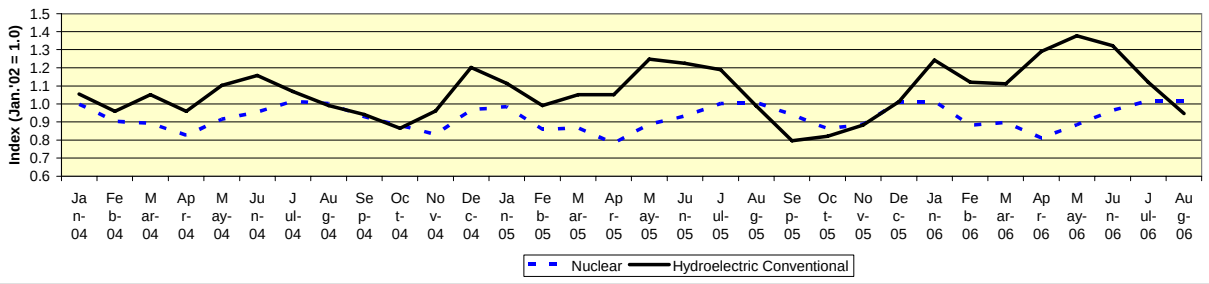


Figure 4.3 Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 5. Fossil Fuel Consumption Trends

Data for: August 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	August 2006	693,675	54,780	4,851,062
Prior Period	January 2005	August 2005	697,148	109,216	4,519,993
Percent Difference			-0.5%	-49.8%	7.3%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	September 2005	August 2006	1,042,405	114,264	6,817,830
Prior Period	September 2004	August 2005	1,040,416	153,760	6,466,975
Percent Difference			0.2%	-25.7%	5.4%

Figure 5.1 Trend in Total Coal Consumption For Electric Generation (All Sectors): 2004, 2005 and 2006

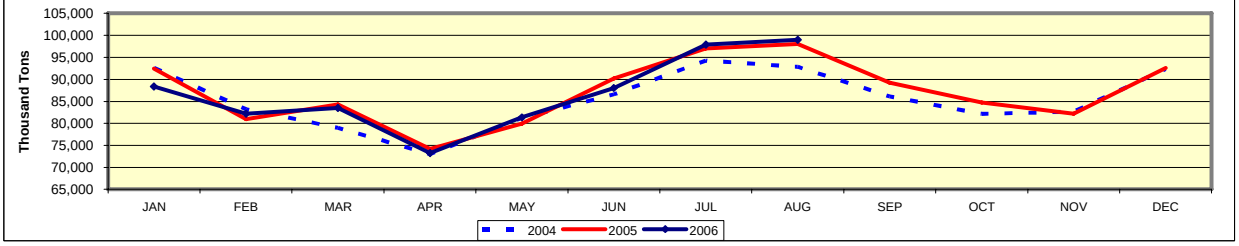


Figure 5.2 Trend in Total Petroleum Liquids Consumption For Electric Generation (All Sectors): 2004, 2005 and 2006

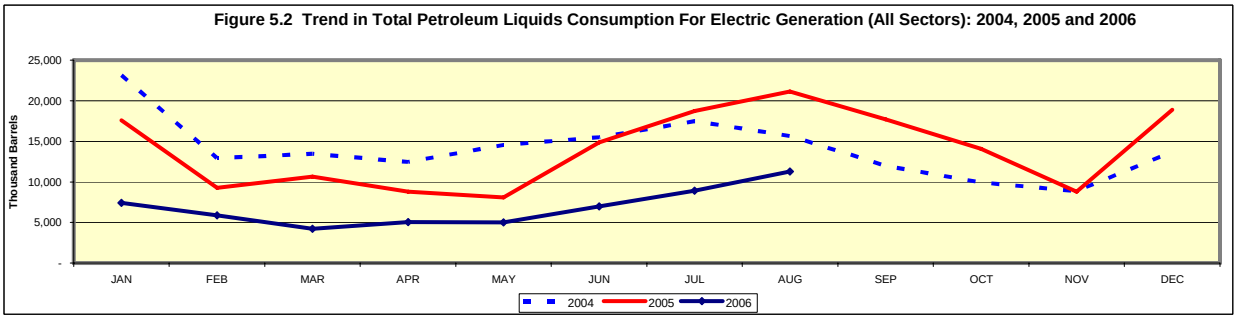
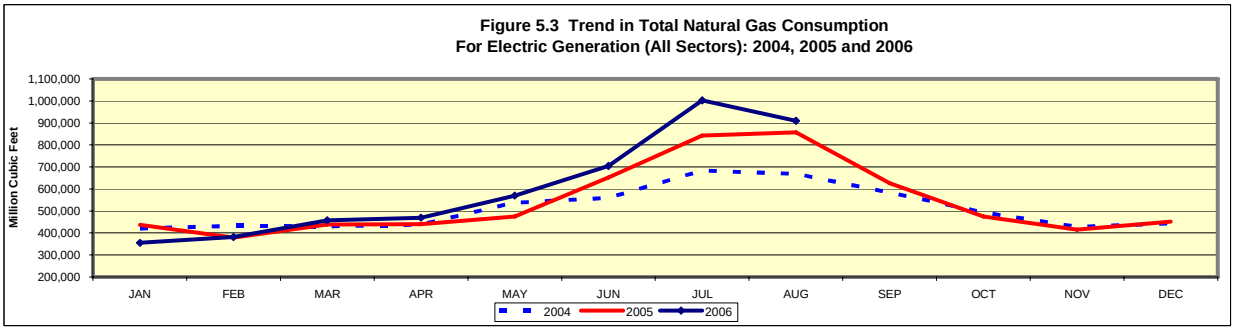


Figure 5.3 Trend in Total Natural Gas Consumption For Electric Generation (All Sectors): 2004, 2005 and 2006



Section 6. Fossil Fuel Stock Trends

Data for: August 2006

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

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Aug-06	Aug-05	% Change	Jul-06	% Change
Coal, Total (Thousand Short Tons)	123,299	98,879	24.7%	127,421	-3.2%
Bituminous (includes anthracite and coal synfuel)	57,837	50,883	13.7%	60,442	-4.3%
Subbituminous	60,542	44,572	35.8%	62,127	-2.6%
Lignite	4,921	3,423	43.8%	4,852	1.4%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	48,937	37,322	31.1%	50,847	-3.8%

Figure 6.1 Trend in Coal Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2004, 2005, and 2006

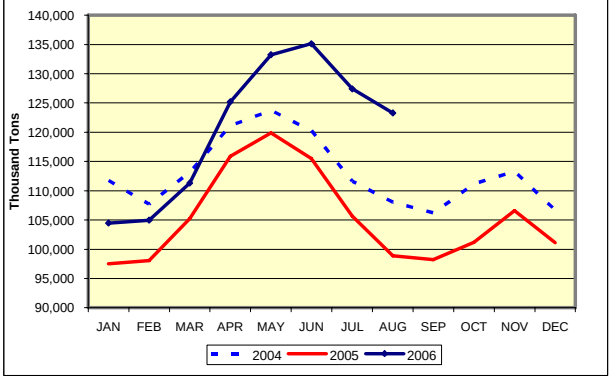


Figure 6.2 Trend in Petroleum Liquids Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2004, 2005, and 2006

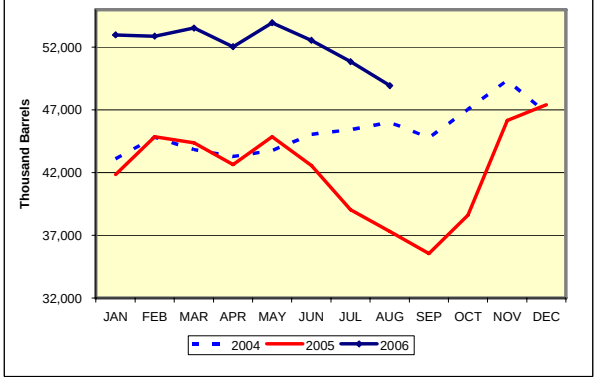


Figure 6.3 Trend in Bituminous Coal Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2004, 2005, and 2006

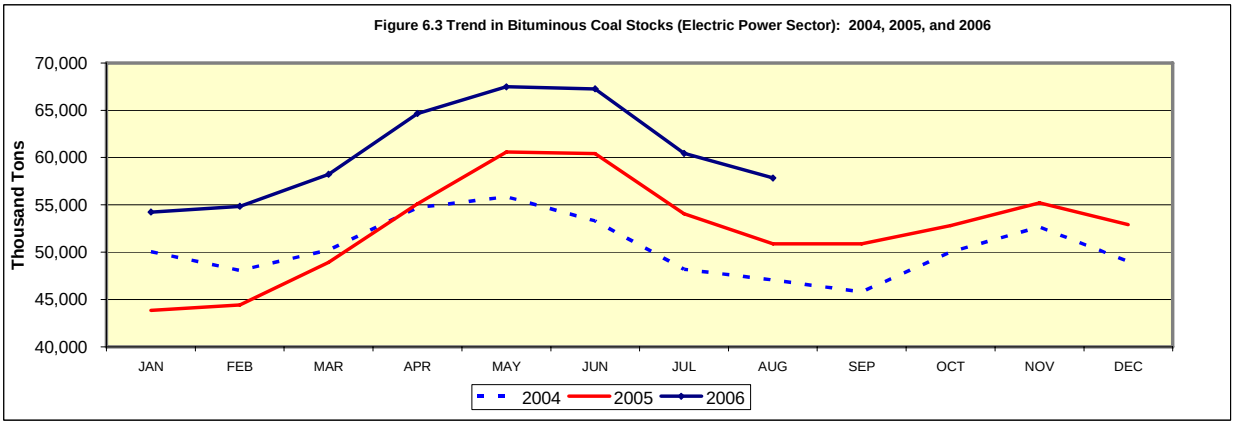
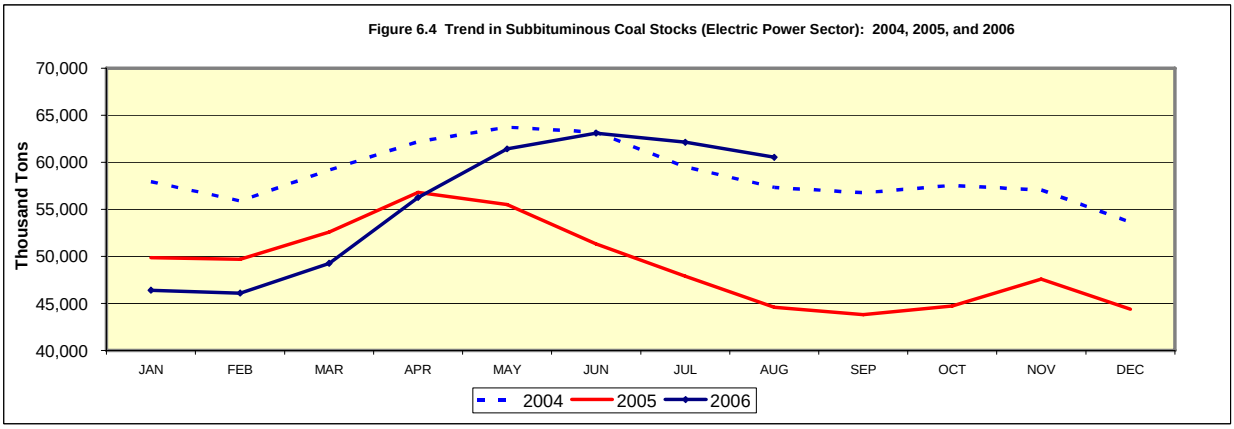


Figure 6.4 Trend in Subbituminous Coal Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2004, 2005, and 2006



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

Data for: August 2006

Retail Sales

Table 7.1 Retail Sales (Million kWh)

Ultimate Customer	Aug-06	Aug-05	% Change	Jul-06	% Change
Residential	150,638	146,703	2.7%	148,056	1.7%
Commercial	126,616	124,562	1.6%	125,034	1.3%
Industrial	91,021	90,304	0.8%	89,423	1.8%
Transportation	708	670	5.6%	693	2.2%
All Sectors	368,983	362,239	1.9%	363,206	1.6%

Average Retail Price

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

Ultimate Customer	Aug-06	Aug-05	% Change	Jul-06	% Change
Residential	10.94	9.93	10.2%	10.96	-0.2%
Commercial	10.05	9.10	10.4%	9.94	1.1%
Industrial	6.44	6.20	3.9%	6.38	0.9%
Transportation	8.20	9.09	-9.8%	8.34	-1.7%
All Sectors	9.52	8.71	9.3%	9.48	0.4%

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

Census Division	Residential			All Sectors		
	Aug-06	Aug-05	% Change	Aug-06	Aug-05	% Change
New England	16.38	13.48	21.5%	14.89	12.12	22.9%
Middle Atlantic	14.37	13.28	8.2%	12.61	11.88	6.1%
East North Central	9.63	8.82	9.2%	7.97	7.37	8.1%
West North Central	8.83	8.55	3.3%	7.40	7.16	3.4%
South Atlantic	10.18	9.16	11.1%	8.92	7.97	11.9%
East South Central	8.43	7.51	12.3%	7.41	6.57	12.8%
West South Central	11.92	10.49	13.6%	10.10	9.08	11.2%
Mountain	9.45	9.05	4.4%	7.85	7.66	2.5%
Pacific Contiguous	12.89	11.38	13.3%	11.80	10.57	11.6%
Pacific Noncontiguous	21.65	18.65	16.1%	18.97	16.46	15.2%
U.S. Total	10.94	9.91	10.4%	9.52	8.68	9.7%

Section 8. Retail Sales Trends

Data for: August 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	August 2006	932,854	865,731	678,815	5,459	2,482,859
Prior Period	January 2005	August 2005	922,399	841,413	680,820	5,529	2,450,161
Percent Difference			1.1%	2.9%	-0.3%	-1.3%	1.3%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	September 2005	August 2006	1,375,243	1,289,472	1,019,307	8,202	3,692,225
Prior Period	September 2004	August 2005	1,332,316	1,250,564	1,020,776	7,921	3,611,576
Percent Difference			3.2%	3.1%	-0.1%	3.5%	2.2%

Figure 8.1
Trends in Total Retail Sales of Electricity (All Sectors): 2004, 2005, and 2006

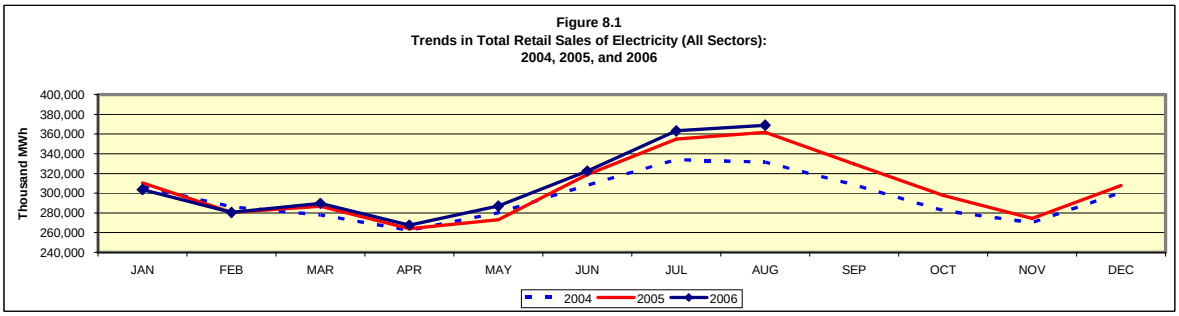


Figure 8.2
Retail Sales of Electricity Trends
(Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

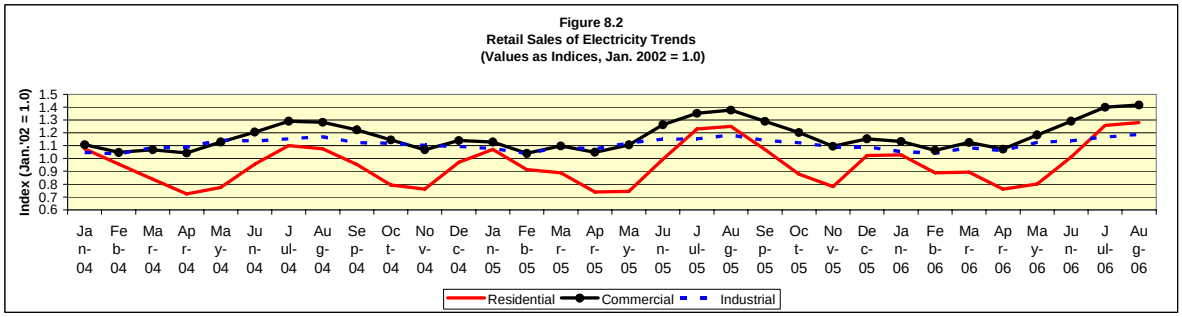
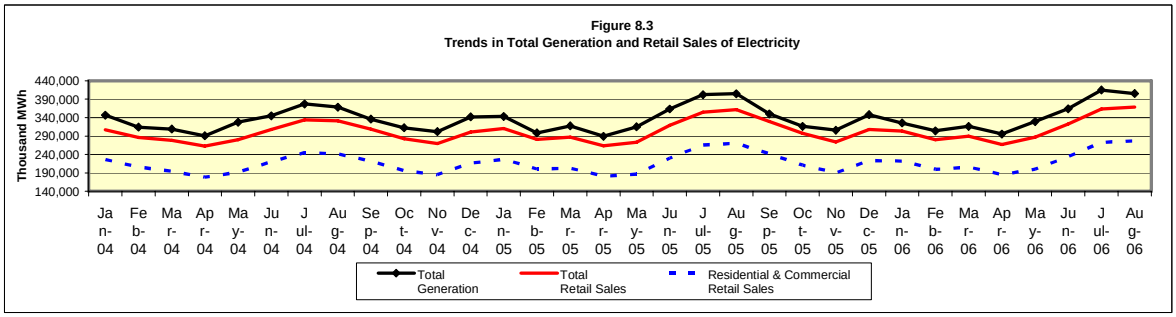


Figure 8.3
Trends in Total Generation and Retail Sales of Electricity



Section 9. Average Retail Price Trends

Data for: August 2006

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 2006	August 2006	10.41	9.42	6.00	7.69	8.85
Prior Period	January 2005	August 2005	9.32	8.59	5.44	7.32	7.99
Percent Difference			11.7%	9.7%	10.3%	5.1%	10.8%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	September 2005	August 2006	10.16	9.27	5.94	7.66	8.68
Prior Period	September 2004	August 2005	9.23	8.45	5.38	7.26	7.87
Percent Difference			10.1%	9.7%	10.4%	5.5%	10.3%

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

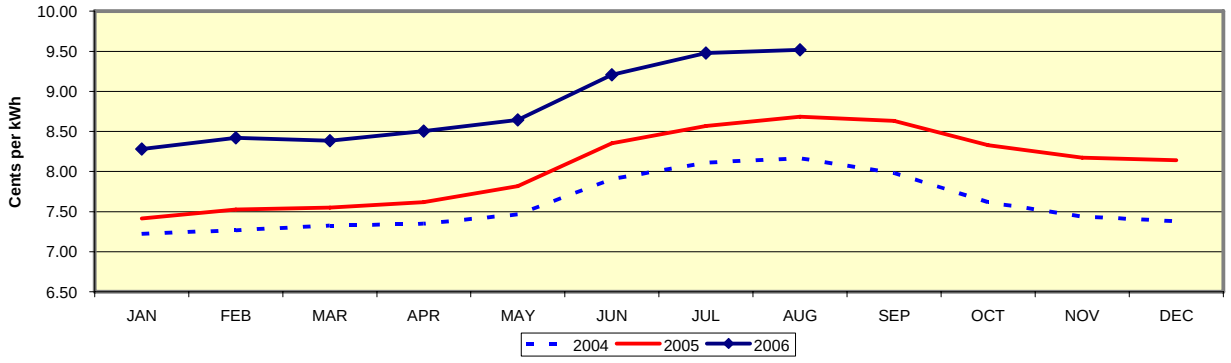
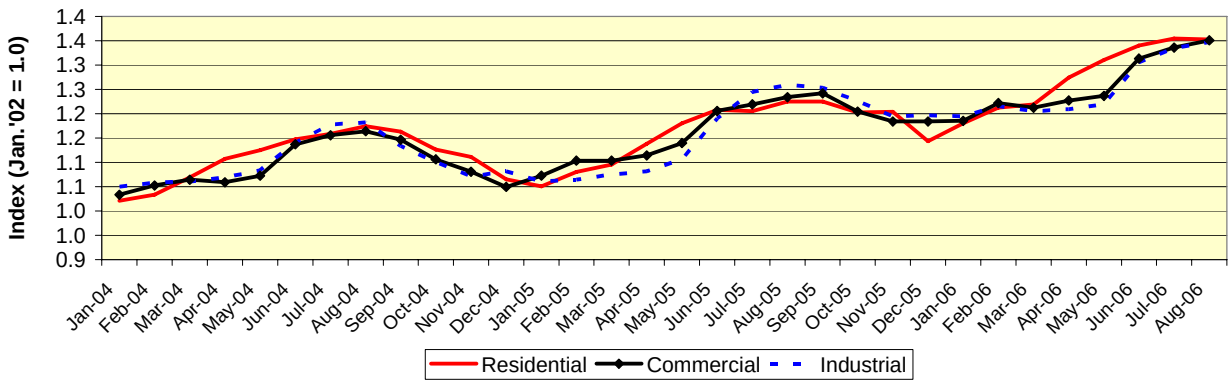


Figure 9.2 Average Retail Price of Electricity: Trends by Sector (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 10. Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Data for: August 2006

Table 10.1 Degree Days

		Heating Degree Days			Cooling Degree Days		
	Month	Heating Degree Days	Normal Heating Degree Days	Deviation From the Normal	Cooling Degree Days	Normal Cooling Degree Days	Deviation From the Normal
Current Period	August 2006	8	15	-7	333	290	43
Previous Period	August 2005	4	15	-11	348	290	58
Percent Difference		100.0%			-4.3%		

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	August 2006	2,382	1,180
Prior Period	January 2005	August 2005	2,646	1,124
Percent Difference			-10.0%	5.0%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	September 2005	August 2006	3,965	1,501
Prior Period	September 2004	August 2005	4,201	1,394
Percent Difference			-5.6%	7.7%

Figure 10.1 Trend in Heating Degree Days: 2005, 2006 and Normal

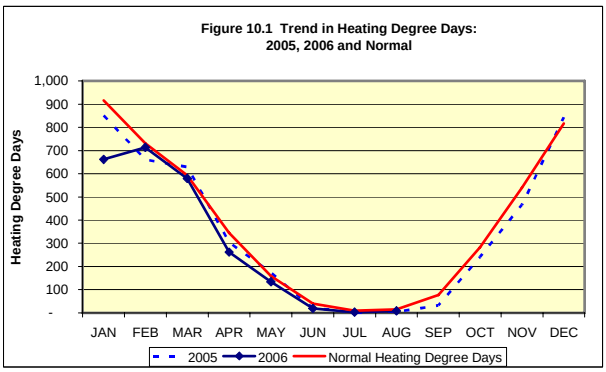


Figure 10.2 Trend in Cooling Degree Days: 2005, 2006 and Normal

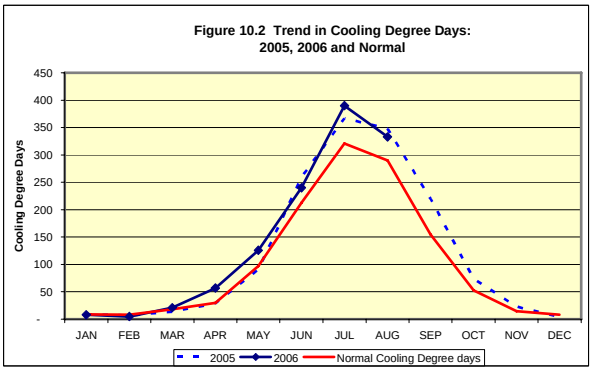


Figure 10.3 Trend in Cumulative Heating Degree Days: 2005, 2006 and Normal

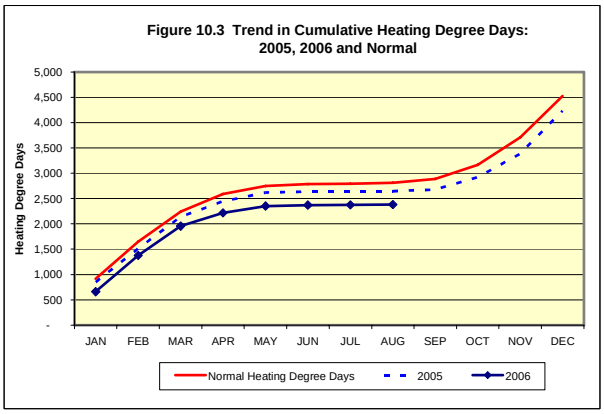
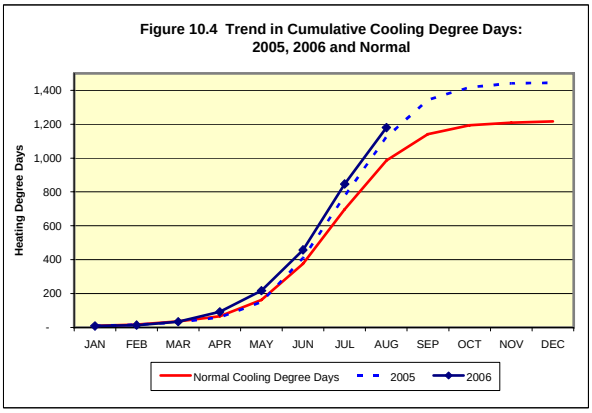


Figure 10.4 Trend in Cumulative Cooling Degree Days: 2005, 2006 and Normal



Section 11. Documentation

Data for: August 2006

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).