Monthly Flash Estimates of

Electric Power Data

Data for: July 2006

Section 1. Commentary

According to the National Climatic Data Center, the United States had its second hottest July on record due to a blistering heat wave throughout the country. The first seven months of 2006 was also the warmest on record in the Nation since recordkeeping began in 1895. July 2006 cooling degree days were near their historical high and more than 21 percent above normal. Year-to-date cooling degree days through July 2006 were 9.1 percent higher than in 2005.

In July 2006 net generation, retail sales and retail prices of electricity all reached new highs. Year-to-date net generation for July 2006 was up 1.3 percent compared to July 2005. Comparing month-to-month, July 2006 net generation was 4.3 percent higher than July 2005, and 14.4 percent higher than June 2006. The increase in net generation was influenced by continued economic growth and near record-breaking hot July weather. The index of industrial production increased 0.4 percent between June 2006 and July 2006 and was 5.2 percent higher comparing July 2006 to July 2005.

The average retail price of electricity for July 2006 was 9.47 cents per kilowatthour. Comparing year-to-date July 2006 and July 2005, retail sales of electricity were up 1.2 percent; and the average retail price of electricity was up 11.1 percent, due to higher fuel costs as well as higher demand for electricity, which requires power generation facilities to make more use of expensive-to-operate peaking units.

Comparing July 2006 to July 2005, generation by all fuel sources was up, except for petroleum liquids. July coal generation was 0.6 percent higher than in July 2005. Natural gas-fired generation reached record levels during July 2006 to meet summer cooling demand and was up a significant 20.7 percent from July 2005. Benefiting from continued moderation in natural gas prices, through July 2006 natural gas-fired generation was up a strong 8.3 percent year-to-date. In July 2006, the electric power industry consumed a record 1,013 billion cubic feet of natural gas. As a consequence of high global oil prices, petroleum liquid fired generation declined 52.9 percent year-to-date and dropped by 54.1 percent comparing July 2005 to July 2006.

Comparing year-to-date July 2006 to July 2005, nuclear generation, which continues to experience fewer days lost to planned and forced maintenance, was 2.7 percent higher. Similarly, hydroelectric generation was 11.8 percent higher. Although July 2006 hydroelectric generation saw a seasonal decrease of 10.9 percent from June 2006, it was 0.7 percent higher than in July 2005. The strong increase in hydroelectric output year-to-date reflects heavy precipitation which has put water supplies at or above normal in the northwestern States and California, the largest hydroelectric production region.

Bituminous and subbituminous coal stocks were respectively 11.9 percent and 29.8 percent higher comparing July 2005 and 2006, as subbituminous coal stocks have essentially recovered from last summer's rail delivery constraints. Subbituminous stocks exceeded 62 million tons, the highest level for July since 2003. As expected to meet the high summer demand for generation, coal and petroleum liquids stockpiles in the electric power sector were drawn down, resulting in a 5.7-percent decrease in coal inventories from June 2006. Petroleum liquids inventories were 28.4 percent higher than in July 2005, but were down 3.2 percent from June 2006.

Table of Contents

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: July 2006

Table 2.1 Key Generation Indicators

	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
Total Change From:			
June 2006	**14.4%**	**5.5%**	**-10.9%**
July 2005	**4.3%**	**2.1%**	**0.7%**
Year to Date	**1.3%**	**2.7%**	**11.8%**
Latest 12 Month Period*	**2.2%**	**2.4%**	**3.0%**

Table 2.2 Key Consumption and Stocks Indicators

	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
Total Change From:			
June 2006	**43.7%**	**11.2%**	**-5.7%**
July 2005	**20.9%**	**0.5%**	**20.8%**
Year to Date	**7.8%**	**-1.2%**	**n/a**
Latest 12 Month Period*	**7.5%**	**0.5%**	**n/a**

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

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

Data for: July 2006

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.1 Total Net Generation (All Sectors)

Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Jul-06	Jul-05	% Change	Jun-06	% Change
Coal	187,143	186,056	0.6%	169,062	10.7%
Petroleum Liquids	5,058	11,013	-54.1%	4,078	24.0%
Natural Gas	114,645	94,949	20.7%	82,375	39.2%
Nuclear	72,186	70,703	2.1%	68,391	5.5%
Hydroelectric Conventional	25,697	25,514	0.7%	28,830	-10.9%
All Other	11,706	11,017	6.3%	11,286	3.7%
Total (All Energy Sources)	416,436	399,252	4.3%	364,022	14.4%

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	Jul-06	Jul-05	% Change	Jun-06	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	97,896	97,412	0.5%	88,056	11.2%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	8,911	18,931	-52.9%	6,998	27.3%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	1,012,762	837,604	20.9%	704,720	43.7%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 3.3 Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Jul-06	Jul-05	% Change	Jun-06	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	127,464	105,556	20.8%	135,112	-5.7%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	50,847	39,614	28.4%	52,551	-3.2%

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: July 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	July 2006	1,141,635	24,674	459,147	459,169	188,377	78,442	2,351,444
Prior Period	January 2005	July 2005	1,155,264	52,407	424,003	446,880	168,549	73,908	2,321,011
Percent Difference			-1.2%	-52.9%	8.3%	2.7%	11.8%	6.1%	1.3%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	August 2005	July 2006	2,000,544	72,549	786,693	792,754	284,906	130,975	4,068,421
Prior Period	August 2004	July 2005	1,989,612	87,868	727,537	773,968	276,676	125,911	3,981,572
Percent Difference			0.5%	-17.4%	8.1%	2.4%	3.0%	4.0%	2.2%

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

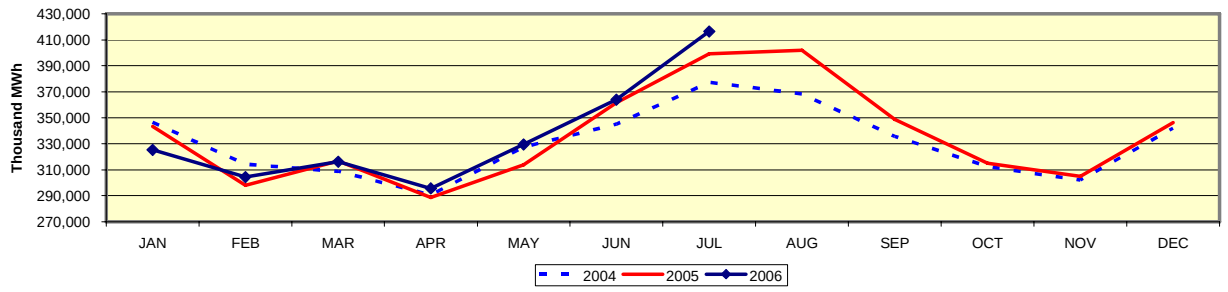


Figure 4.2 Fossil Fuel Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

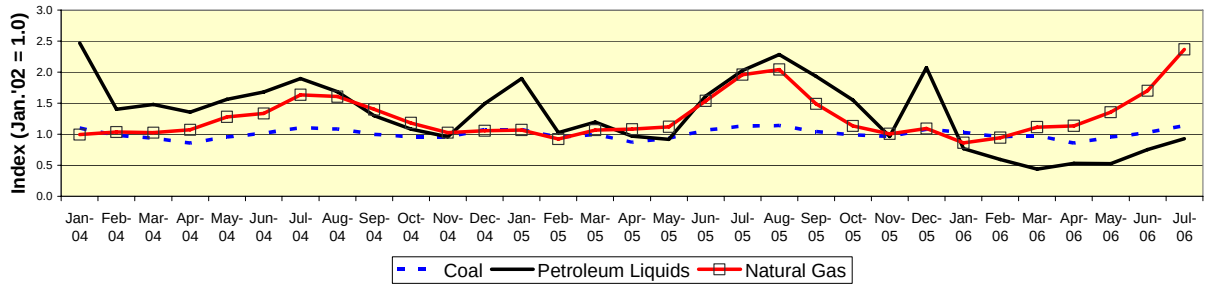
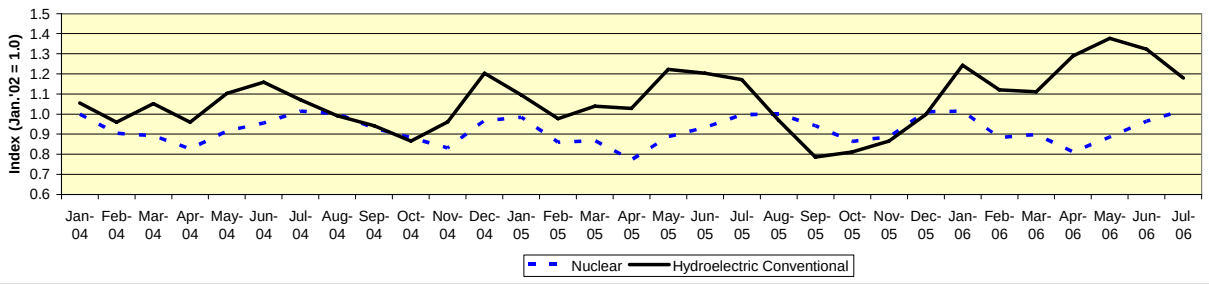


Figure 4.3 Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 5. Fossil Fuel Consumption Trends

Data for: July 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	July 2006	594,654	43,498	3,951,785
Prior Period	January 2005	July 2005	602,170	90,292	3,666,524
Percent Difference			-1.2%	-51.8%	7.8%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	August 2005	July 2006	1,043,661	125,613	6,751,233
Prior Period	August 2004	July 2005	1,038,290	150,505	6,280,348
Percent Difference			0.5%	-16.5%	7.5%

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

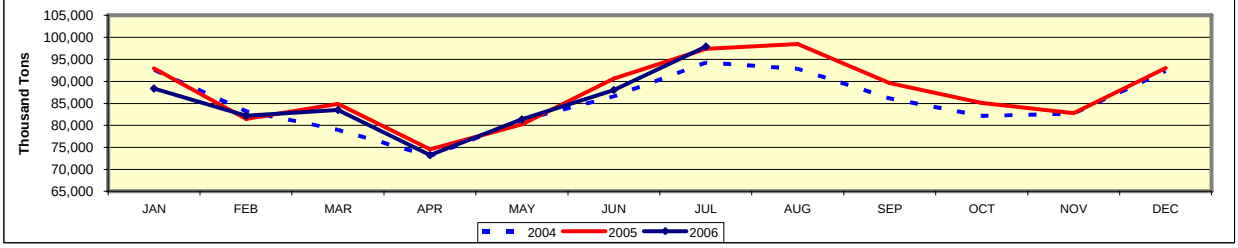


Figure 5.2 Trend in Total Petroleum Liquids Consumption For Electric Generation (All Sectors): 2004, 2005 and 2006

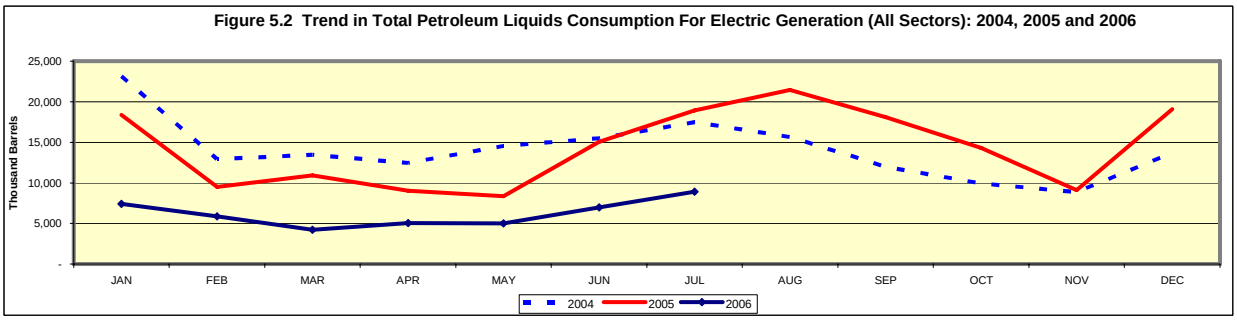
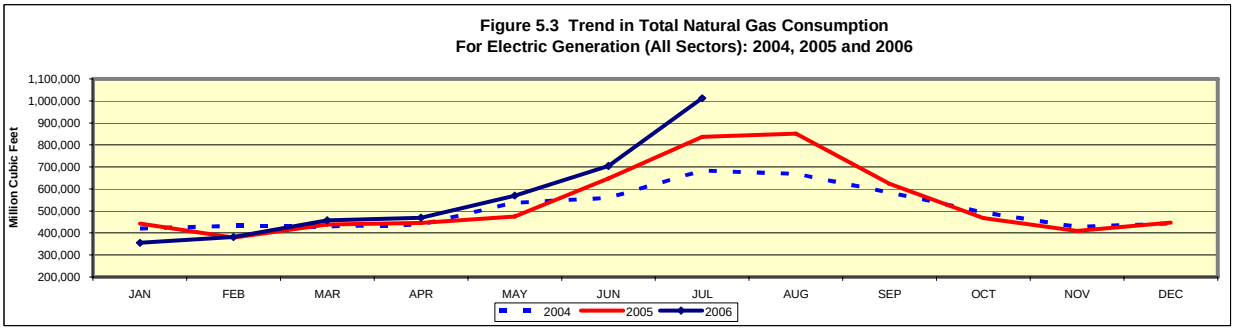


Figure 5.3 Trend in Total Natural Gas Consumption For Electric Generation (All Sectors): 2004, 2005 and 2006



Section 6. Fossil Fuel Stock Trends

Data for: July 2006

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

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Jul-06	Jul-05	% Change	Jun-06	% Change
Coal, Total (Thousand Short Tons)	127,464	105,556	20.8%	135,112	-5.7%
Bituminous (includes anthracite and coal synfuel)	60,485	54,059	11.9%	67,266	-10.1%
Subbituminous	62,127	47,875	29.8%	63,115	-1.6%
Lignite	4,852	3,622	34.0%	4,731	2.6%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	50,847	39,614	28.4%	52,551	-3.2%

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

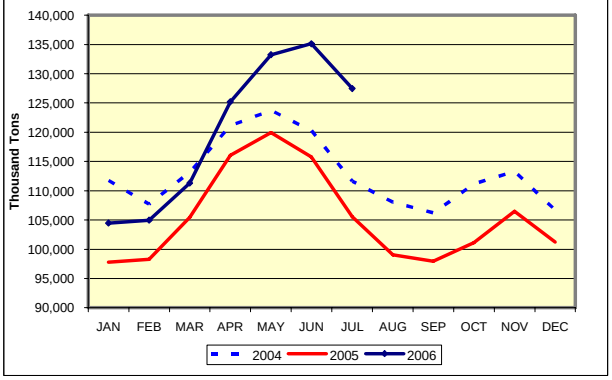


Figure 6.4 Trend in Petroleum Liquids Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2004, 2005, and 2006

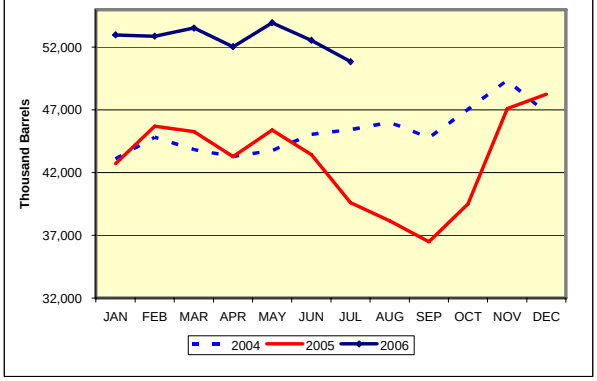


Figure 6.2 Trend in Bituminous Coal Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2004, 2005, and 2006

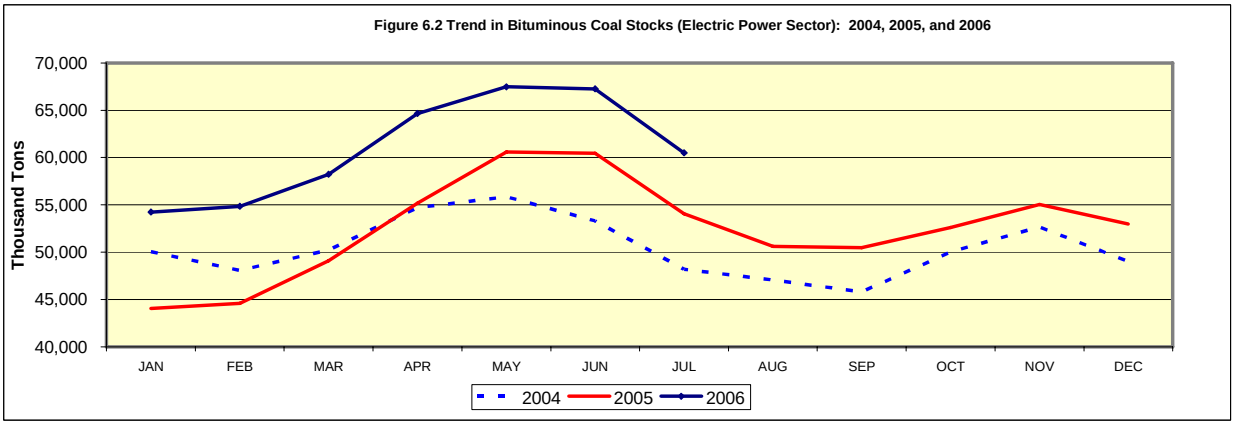
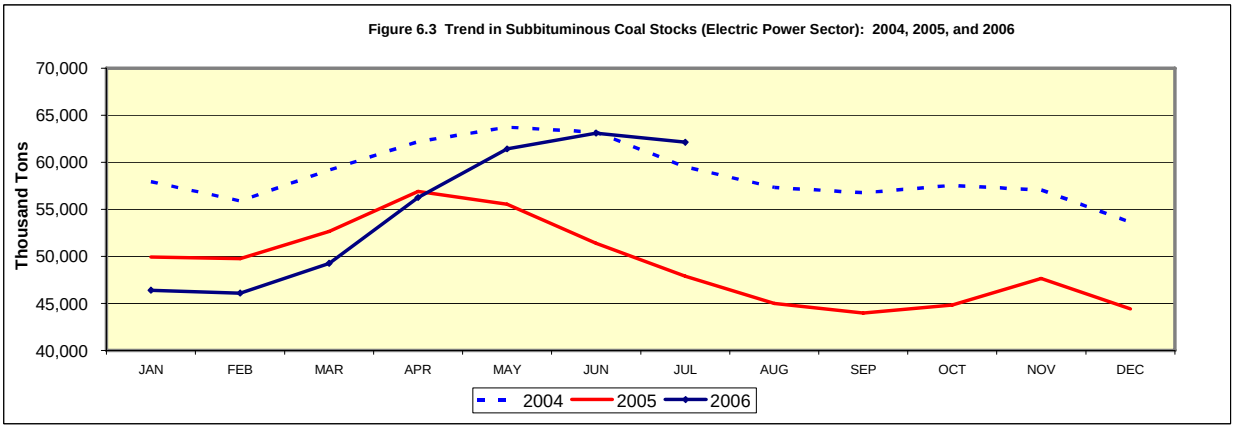


Figure 6.3 Trend in Subbituminous Coal Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2004, 2005, and 2006



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

Data for: July 2006

Retail Sales

Table 7.1 Retail Sales (Million kWh)

Ultimate Customer	Jul-06	Jul-05	% Change	Jun-06	% Change
Residential	148,054	144,945	2.1%	119,168	24.2%
Commercial	125,479	120,772	3.9%	115,402	8.7%
Industrial	89,412	88,303	1.3%	87,215	2.5%
Transportation	690	684	0.9%	671	2.8%
All Sectors	363,635	354,705	2.5%	322,457	12.8%

Average Retail Price

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

Ultimate Customer	Jul-06	Jul-05	% Change	Jun-06	% Change
Residential	10.96	9.75	12.4%	10.84	1.1%
Commercial	9.90	9.07	9.2%	9.77	1.3%
Industrial	6.39	5.95	7.4%	6.24	2.4%
Transportation	8.39	8.07	4.0%	8.05	4.2%
All Sectors	9.47	8.57	10.5%	9.21	2.8%

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

Census Division	Residential			All Sectors		
	Jul-06	Jul-05	% Change	Jul-06	Jul-05	% Change
New England	15.89	13.34	19.1%	14.27	11.97	19.2%
Middle Atlantic	14.25	12.98	9.8%	12.47	11.51	8.3%
East North Central	9.64	8.82	9.3%	7.99	7.43	7.5%
West North Central	8.99	8.55	5.1%	7.57	7.19	5.3%
South Atlantic	10.12	9.08	11.5%	8.76	7.86	11.5%
East South Central	8.34	7.50	11.2%	7.28	6.53	11.5%
West South Central	11.70	10.32	13.4%	9.81	8.80	11.5%
Mountain	9.41	9.04	4.1%	7.90	7.74	2.1%
Pacific Contiguous	14.05	10.98	28.0%	12.43	10.70	16.2%
Pacific Noncontiguous	21.62	18.37	17.7%	18.99	16.28	16.6%
U.S. Total	10.96	9.75	12.4%	9.47	8.57	10.5%

Section 8. Retail Sales Trends

Data for: July 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	July 2006	782,213	739,560	587,782	4,749	2,114,305
Prior Period	January 2005	July 2005	775,101	718,342	590,209	4,792	2,088,444
Percent Difference			0.9%	3.0%	-0.4%	-0.9%	1.2%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	August 2005	July 2006	1,371,900	1,286,373	1,018,886	8,229	3,685,388
Prior Period	August 2004	July 2005	1,311,683	1,242,060	1,019,738	7,786	3,581,267
Percent Difference			4.6%	3.6%	-0.1%	5.7%	2.9%

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

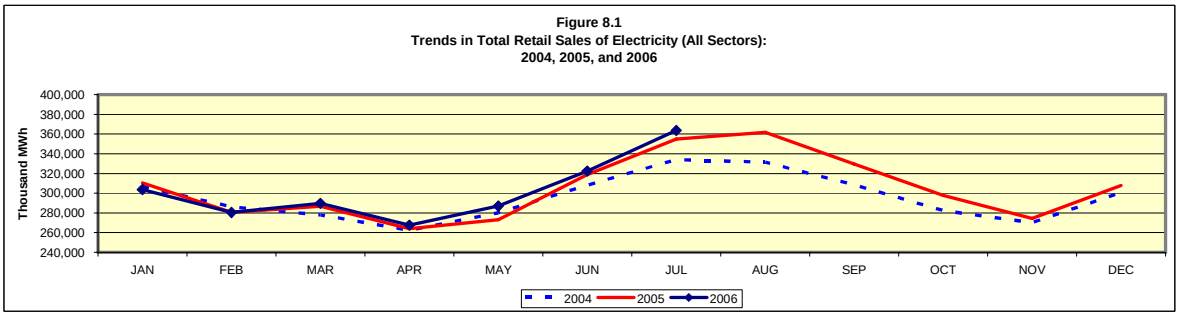


Figure 8.2
Retail Sales of Electricity Trends
(Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

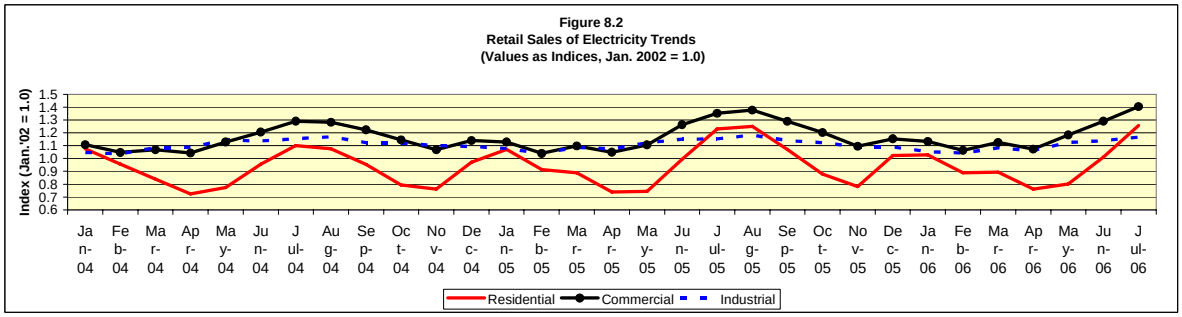
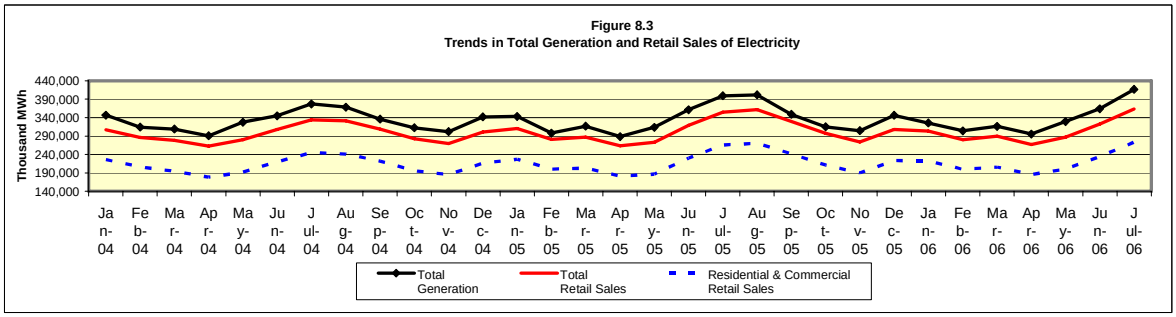


Figure 8.3
Trends in Total Generation and Retail Sales of Electricity



Section 9. Average Retail Price Trends

Data for: July 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	July 2006	10.30	9.31	5.94	7.62	8.74
Prior Period	January 2005	July 2005	9.21	8.49	5.35	7.23	7.87
Percent Difference			11.8%	9.7%	11.0%	5.4%	11.1%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	August 2005	July 2006	10.05	9.18	5.91	7.64	8.60
Prior Period	August 2004	July 2005	9.18	8.40	5.34	7.24	7.81
Percent Difference			9.5%	9.3%	10.7%	5.5%	10.1%

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

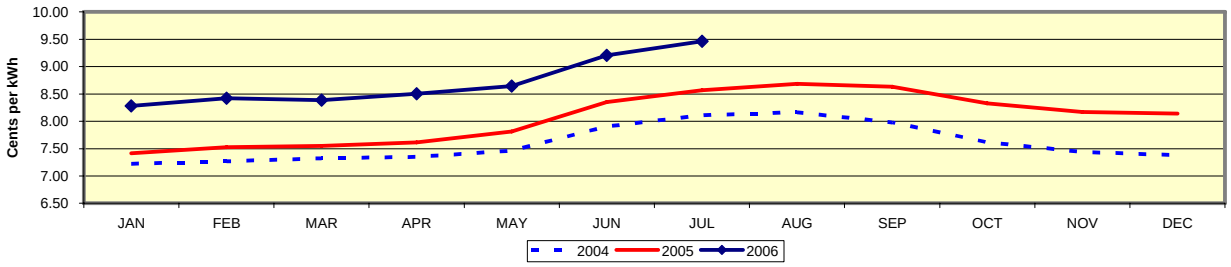
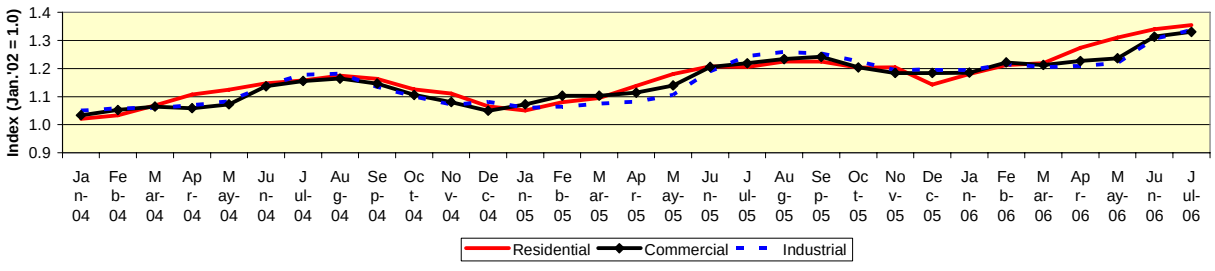


Figure 9.2 Average Retail Price of Electricity Trends by Ultimate Customer (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 10. Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Data for: July 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	July 2006	3	9	-6	390	321	69
Previous Period	July 2005	3	9	-6	367	321	46
Percent Difference		0.0%			6.3%		

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	July 2006	2,374	847
Prior Period	January 2005	July 2005	2,642	776
Percent Difference			-10.1%	9.1%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	August 2005	July 2006	3,961	1,516
Prior Period	August 2004	July 2005	4,213	1,300
Percent Difference			-6.0%	16.6%

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

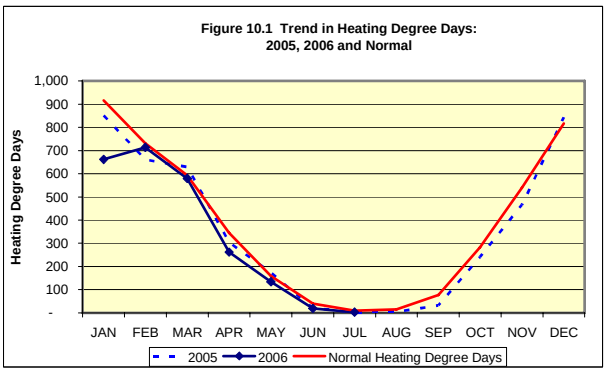


Figure 10.2 Trend in Cooling Degree Days: 2005, 2006 and Normal

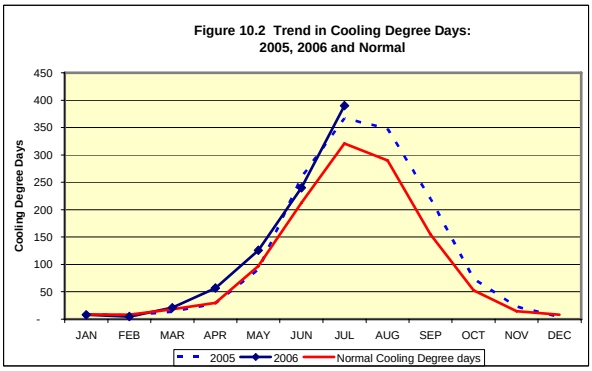


Figure 10.3 Trend in Cumulative Heating Degree Days: 2005, 2006 and Normal

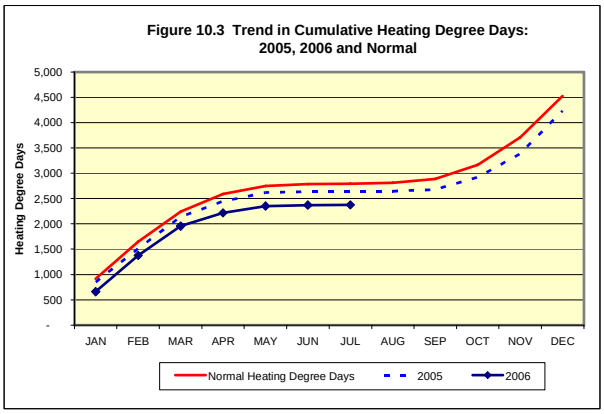
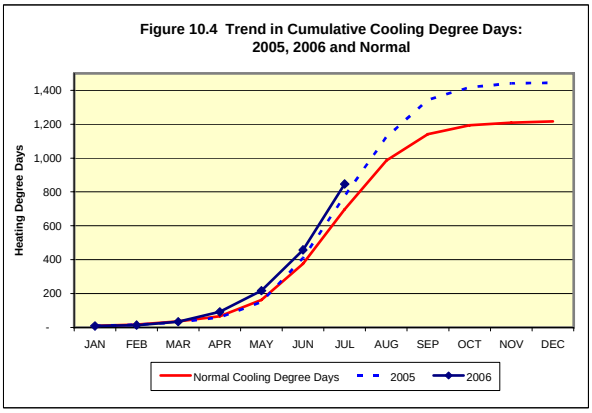


Figure 10.4 Trend in Cumulative Cooling Degree Days: 2005, 2006 and Normal



Section 11. Documentation

Data for: July 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).