

### Texas (ERCOT) Electric Market Zones



**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission • Market Oversight @ FERC.gov****Overview****Geography**

States covered: Most of Texas

Reliability regions: Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)

Balancing authority: Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)

Zones: See map on previous page.

**RTO/ISO**

ERCOT schedules and centrally dispatches the grid within a single control area, ensures transmission reliability and wholesale open access, and manages financial settlement in the wholesale power market. It also administers the Texas competitive retail market, including customer switching. ERCOT operates wholesale markets for:

- Balancing energy
- Ancillary service markets with zonal congestion management.

Market participants trade electricity bilaterally directly, through brokers and through the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE). Physical products predominantly use the ERCOT hub pricing point, but physical and financial products priced at the five ERCOT zones are also traded.

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**Generation/Supply**

Marginal fuel type: Coal and natural gas

Generating capacity (summer 2006): 70,756 MW

Capacity reserve (summer 2006): 8,417 MW

Reserve margin (summer 2006): 14%

The region currently has excess capacity, and some generation has recently been mothballed or decommissioned. Almost 7,000 MW of generating capacity was mothballed during summer 2006. Reserve margins are nevertheless expected to decline to ERCOT's 12.5% target in the next two years.

**Demand**

All time peak demand: 62.3 GW (set August 17, 2006)

In summer of 2006, demand reached record levels on several occasions due to extremely hot weather.

Peak demand growth: 3.5% (2006–2005)

Summer Peak Demand (GW): 60.2 (2005) 62.3 (2006)

Source: *PUC of Texas*

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**Prices**

Annual Average Real-Time Price at ERCOT North Hub

**2004** \$42.63/MWh

**2005** \$66.81/MWh

**2006** \$52.35/MWh

Prices increased in 2005 as a result of disturbances to the natural gas market. Prices declined in 2006 as natural gas storage levels remained above historical ranges throughout the injection season (April through October).

**Interconnections/Seams**

The ERCOT control area is not synchronously connected to the Eastern or Western Interconnection (it is a separate interconnection) but it can exchange about 860 MW with SPP and Mexico through DC links.

## Focal Points

**New Market Design:** In 2006, the Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) moved forward with a design for a nodal, two-settlement market to begin in early 2009. ERCOT will not have a capacity market but starting in March 2007, ERCOT will increase its \$1,000/MWh offer cap in steps, ending at \$3,000/MWh shortly after the new market design is implemented.

**Rolling Blackout:** In April 2006 an unusual heat wave led to weather and load forecast errors that combined with seasonal maintenance outages and the sudden loss of several generators to force a rolling blackout of 1,000 MW of load lasting about two hours.

**New Coal Plants:** TXU proposed construction of up to 9,100 MW for 11 new pulverized coal-fired power plants at existing plant locations at a cost of \$10 billion announced in a 2006 press release. TXU's proposal was aimed to ensure future reliable supplies of electric power at competitive prices, but the proposal garnered opposition due to potential effects on emissions, especially carbon dioxide and mercury.

## ERCOT Electric Market: Supply and Demand

**Supply and Demand Statistics for Texas****Supply Demand Statistics**

	2004	2005	2006
Summer Generating Capacity MW	75,056	69,380	70,756
Summer Peak Demand MW	58,506	60,214	62,339
Summer Reserves MW	15,324	9,166	8,417
Summer Reserve Margin:	26%	15%	14%
Annual Load (GWh):	289,113	299,227	NA
Annual Net Generation GWh	NA	NA	NA

Texas Electric Market: Prices

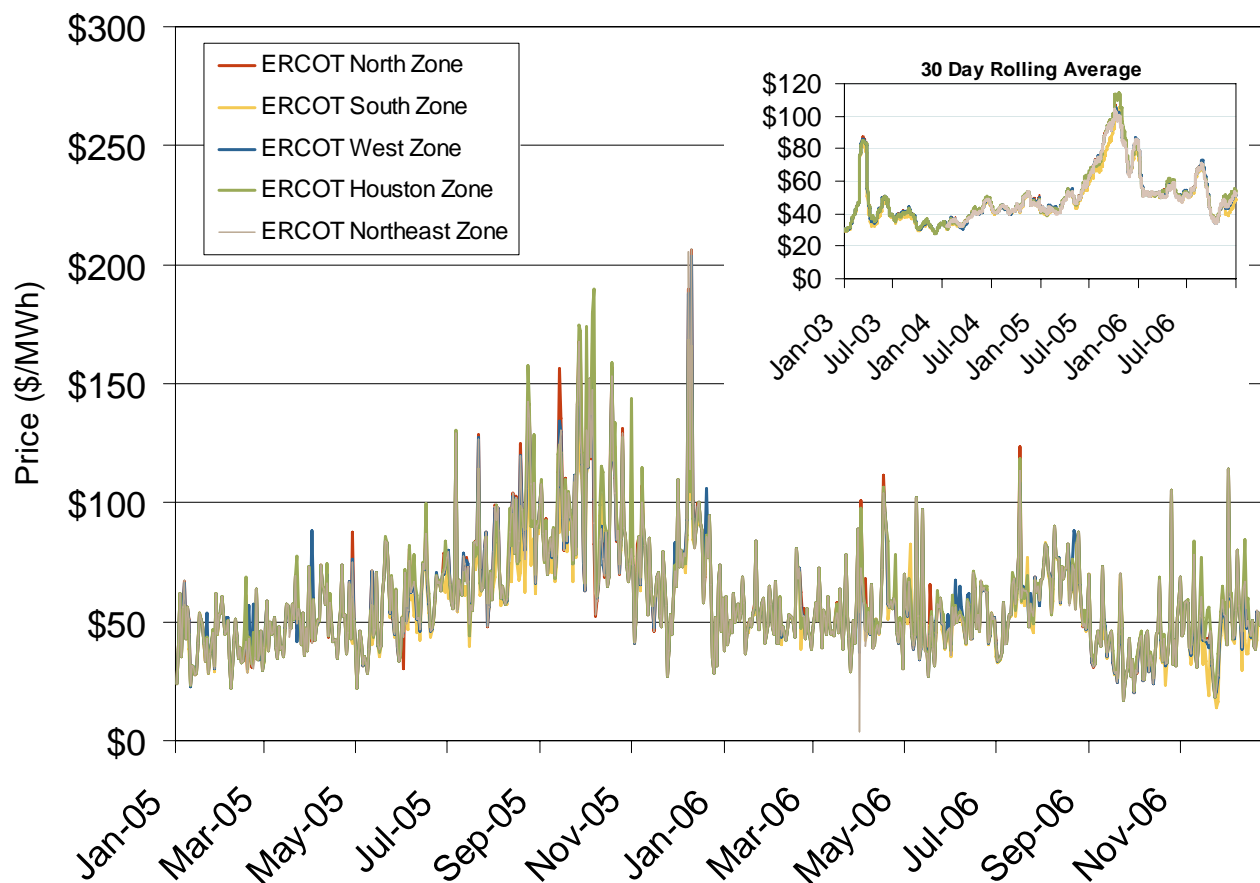
## Yearly Average of RTO Real-Time Prices – All Hours

**Annual Average Real-Time Ahead Prices (\$/MWh)**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
North Zone	\$66.81	\$51.98	\$45.67
South Zone	\$63.91	\$50.66	\$43.65
West Zone	\$66.83	\$51.91	\$45.23
Houston Zone	\$67.77	\$52.59	\$45.76
Northeast Zone	\$66.18	\$51.34	NA

## ERCOT Electric Market: Prices

## Daily Average of ERCOT Real Time Prices - All Hours

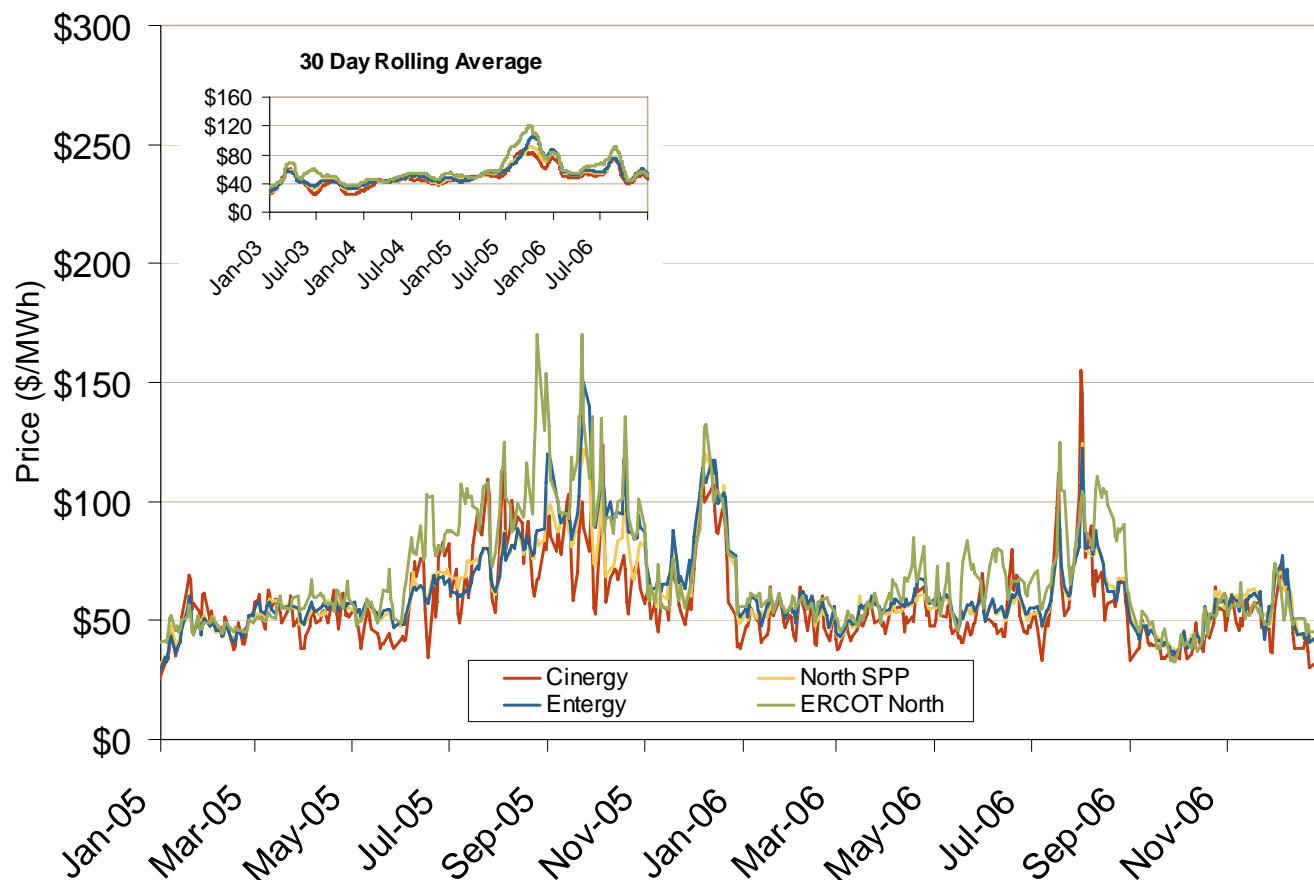
Source: Derived from *ERCOT* data.

Updated January 16, 2007



## ERCOT Electric Market: Prices

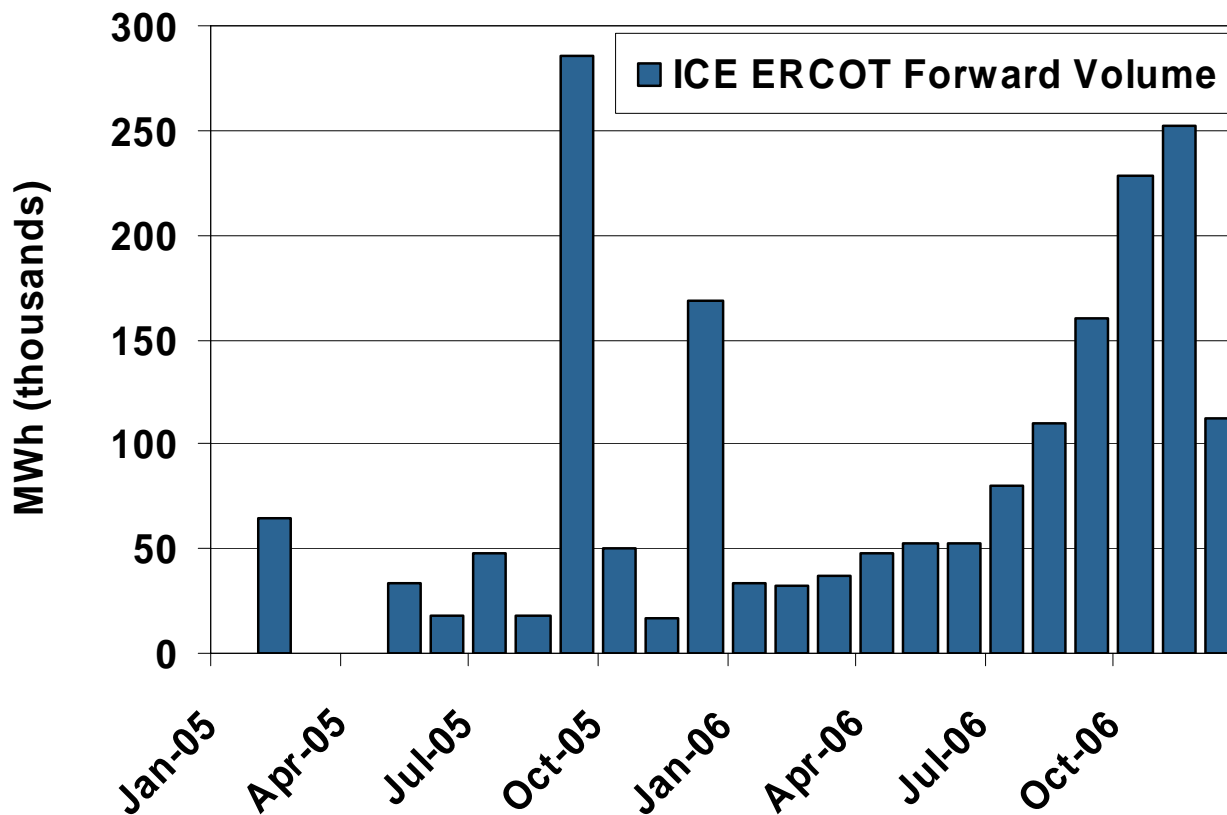
## Midwestern Daily Bilateral Day-Ahead On-Peak Prices

Source: Derived from *Platts* data.

Updated January 16, 2007

ERCOT Electric Market: Financial Market Volumes

# ERCOT Forward Volumes



Source: Derived from ICE data. ICE on-peak forward volumes are for ERCOT and include monthly, dual monthly, quarterly, and calendar year contracts traded for each month.