Monthly Flash Estimates of Electric Power Data

Data for: February 2005

Table 1. Key Indicators

Change From:	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
January 2005	-13.2%	-12.7%	-10.9%
February 2004	-4.8%	-4.9%	2.2%
Year to Date:	-2.6%	-3.1%	3.2%
Latest 12 Month Period*	0.9%	2.1%	-3.1%

Change From:	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
January 2005	-14.2%	-12.3%	-6.9%
February 2004	-11.9%	-2.7%	-8.4%
Year to Date:	-2.9%	-1.4%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	6.0%	0.8%	n/a

* Change in total consumption or generation for the latest 12 month period (March 2004 to February 2005) compared to the prior 12 month period (March 2003 to February 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 Stan Kaplan at 202-287-1803, or at stan.kaplan@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)	**Feb-05**	**Feb-04**	**% Change**	**Jan-05**	**% Change**
Coal	156,005	161,497	-3.4%	177,177	-11.9%
Petroleum Liquids	5,785	7,541	-23.3%	10,222	-43.4%
Natural Gas	44,341	49,456	-10.3%	51,377	-13.7%
Nuclear	60,937	64,102	-4.9%	69,828	-12.7%
Hydroelectric Conventional	21,578	21,117	2.2%	24,207	-10.9%
All Other	9,462	9,373	0.9%	10,449	-9.4%
Total (All Energy Sources)	298,108	313,087	-4.8%	343,262	-13.2%

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

Table 3. Consumption of Fossil Fuels for Electric Generation Total (All Sectors)					
	Feb-05	**Feb-04**	**% Change**	**Jan-05**	**% Change**
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	81,351	83,637	-2.7%	92,772	-12.3%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	9,934	12,921	-23.1%	18,015	-44.9%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	375,731	426,293	-11.9%	437,777	-14.2%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 4. Fossil Fuel Stocks (Total, Electric Power Sector)					
	Feb-05	**Feb-04**	**% Change**	**Jan-05**	**% Change**
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	99,289	108,426	-8.4%	106,654	-6.9%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	44,718	44,580	0.3%	42,041	6.4%

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)					
	Feb-05	Feb-04	% Change	Jan-05	% Change
Residential	107,187	113,075	-5.2%	125,614	-14.7%
Commercial	93,341	93,848	-0.5%	101,472	-8.0%
Industrial	80,212	79,598	0.8%	82,301	-2.5%
Transportation	726	666	9.1%	755	-3.8%
All Sectors	281,466	287,187	-2.0%	310,142	-9.2%

Average Retail Price

Table 6. Average Retail Price (Cents/kWh)					
	Feb-05	Feb-04	% Change	Jan-05	% Change
Residential	8.73	8.32	4.9%	8.49	2.8%
Commercial	8.18	7.83	4.5%	7.94	3.0%
Industrial	5.17	4.91	5.3%	5.08	1.8%
Transportation	6.83	6.29	8.6%	6.91	-1.2%
All Sectors	7.53	7.21	4.4%	7.40	1.8%

Commentary

Relatively mild winter weather has continued in February 2005. Heating degree days in February 2005 were 14 percent lower than in February 2004, and the month was a day shorter than in 2004 (a leap year). Hence, generation in February 2005 was an estimated 4.8 percent lower than in February 2004. Generation in February 2005 was also 13.2 percent lower than January 2005, due to a three-day shorter month and milder weather (see Figure 9).

Generation for the current rolling 12 month period (March 2004 through February 2005) is up 0.9 percent compared to the prior rolling 12 month period (March 2003 through February 2004). During the rolling 12 month comparison periods, nuclear generation is up 2.1 percent and natural gas generation is up 6.9 percent. Coal-fired generation declined by 0.5 percent. The 6.9 percent growth in gas-fired generation produced a smaller 6.0 percent gain in gas fuel use for power generation -- likely due to the introduction of new, more efficient plants. In contrast, although coal generation was down slightly, its consumption increased during the rolling 12 month periods by 0.8, presumably due to the increased use of lower heat content fuel.

Petroleum stocks at power plants were almost unchanged from February 2004. Coal stocks continued to trend downward; stocks dropped 6.9 percent from January 2005 and were down 8.4 percent compared to February 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	February 2005	333,182	16,007	95,718	130,765	45,785	19,911	641,368
Prior Period	January 2004	February 2004	342,121	20,638	96,941	134,908	44,365	19,206	658,180
Percent Change			-2.6%	-22.4%	-1.3%	-3.1%	3.2%	3.7%	-2.6%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	March 2004	February 2005	1,967,392	94,397	698,388	784,411	271,057	120,948	3,936,593
Prior Period	March 2003	February 2004	1,977,562	102,115	653,126	768,489	279,789	119,045	3,900,126
Percent Change			-0.5%	-7.6%	6.9%	2.1%	-3.1%	1.6%	0.9%

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

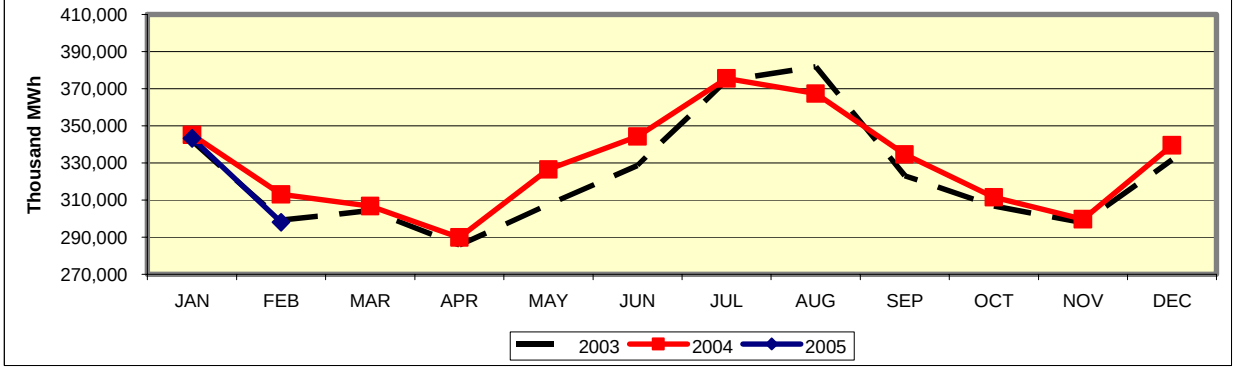


Figure 2. Fossil Fuel Generation Trends
(Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

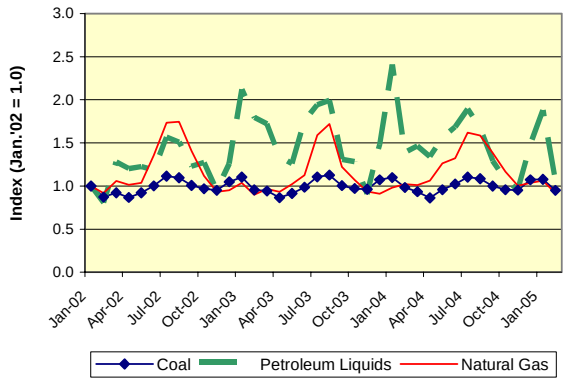
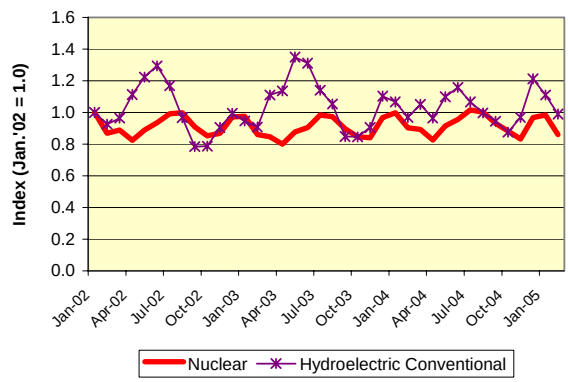


Figure 3. Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends
(Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



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	February 2005	174,123	27,949	813,508
Prior Period	January 2004	February 2004	176,632	35,774	838,088
Percent Change			-1.4%	-21.9%	-2.9%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	March 2004	February 2005	1,027,054	162,422	5,995,753
Prior Period	March 2003	February 2004	1,018,401	174,370	5,654,323
Percent Change			0.8%	-6.9%	6.0%

Figure 4. Trend in Total Coal Consumption For Electric Generation (All Sectors): 2003, 2004, and 2005

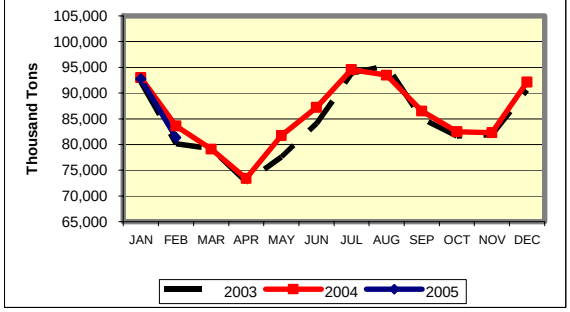


Figure 5. Trend in Total Petroleum Liquids Consumption For Electric Generation (All Sectors): 2003, 2004 and 2005

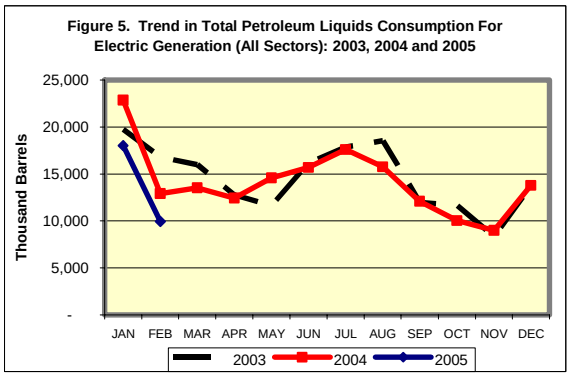
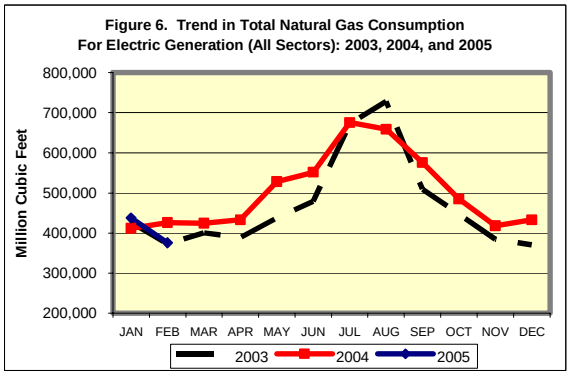


Figure 6. Trend in Total Natural Gas Consumption For Electric Generation (All Sectors): 2003, 2004, and 2005



Stocks Trends

Figure 7. Trend in Petroleum Liquids Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2003, 2004, and 2005

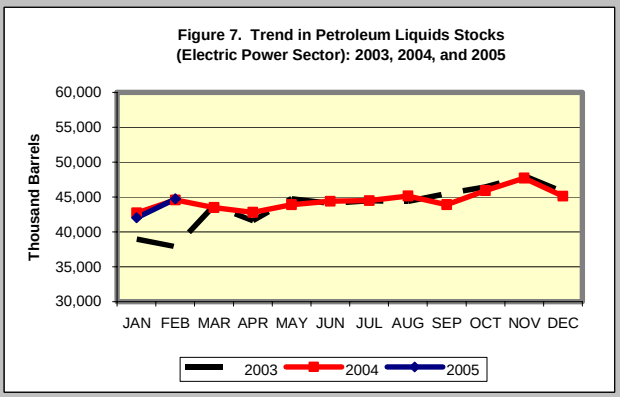
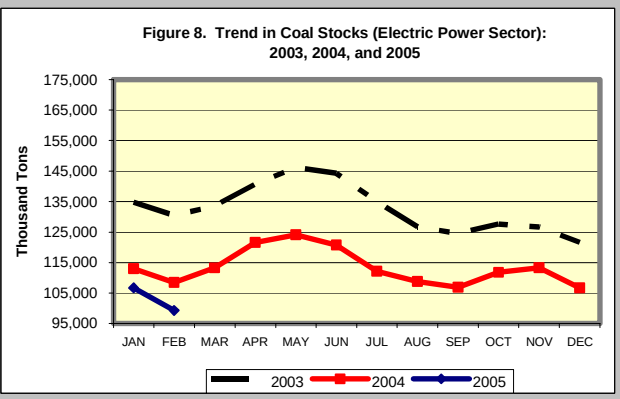
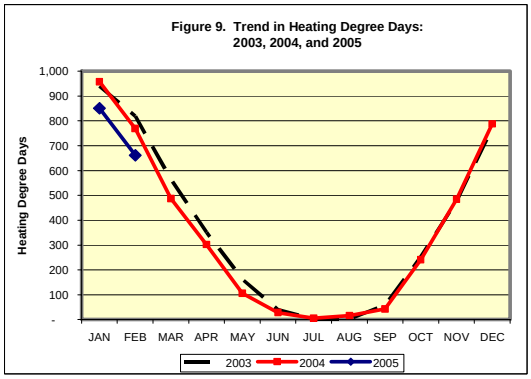


Figure 8. Trend in Coal Stocks (Electric Power Sector): 2003, 2004, and 2005



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

Degree Days



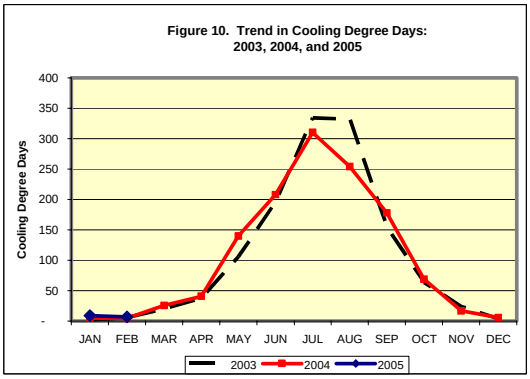


Table 9. Trends in Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	January 2005	February 2005	1,512	16
Prior Period	January 2004	February 2004	1,726	10
Percent Change			-12.4%	60.0%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	March 2004	February 2005	4,010	1,265
Prior Period	March 2003	February 2004	4,407	1,283
Percent Change			-9.0%	-1.4%

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.