

Monthly Flash Estimates of

Electric Power Data

**Data for:
January 2006**

Section 1. Commentary

Record and near record high temperatures were set in almost every state in the nation during January 2006. Nationally, it was the warmest January on record. Heating degree days were 22.2 percent lower than in January of 2005. In line with the warmer weather pattern, total electric power generation in January decreased by 6.1 percent from December 2005, and 5.3 percent from January 2005. Although extremely dry weather continued in the southwestern states, the northwest and northeast coastal regions experienced above normal precipitation, resulting in a 24.4 percent increase in hydroelectric generation compared to December 2005, and 13.6 percent higher than in January 2005.

The warmer than normal January weather contributed to a decrease in natural gas and petroleum liquids generation, which typically serve peak load, down by 19.2 and 59.6 percent, respectively, compared to the levels in January 2005. Coal generation decreased by 4.8 percent. Nuclear generation was up 2.9 percent from January 2005 and marginally higher than December 2005. Nuclear generators had far fewer outage days in January 2006 than last January. Electric power generation from all sources in the last twelve-month period was up 1.3 percent from the prior year.

Retail sales of electricity were down 1.7 percent from December 2005, and 1.0 percent from January of a year ago. Retail sales of electricity in the last twelve-month period were up 2.9 percent from prior year. In January 2006, the average retail price of electricity was up 1.7 percent from previous month, and was 11.6 percent higher than in January 2005, largely as the result of higher fuel costs.

The decrease in electricity generation in January 2006 resulted in an increase of both coal and petroleum liquids stocks in the electric power sector. Increases in hydroelectric and nuclear generation also contributed to this build up of stocks. Coal stocks were up 2.7 percent from December 2005 and up 6.3 percent from January 2005. This was the first year-to-year increase since 2002. Bituminous coal stocks increased by 24.1 percent from 42.5 to 52.7 million tons, while subbituminous coal stocks decreased by 7.1 percent from 49.9 to 46.4 million tons. Rail transportation maintenance and weather-related problems continued to constrain sub-bituminous shipments from the Powder River Basin. Petroleum liquids stocks increased 9.8 percent from December 2005 and 24.0 percent from January 2005.

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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:
January 2006

Table 2.1 Key Generation Indicators

	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
Total Change From:			
December 2005	-6.1%	0.1%	24.4%
January 2005	-5.3%	2.9%	13.6%
Year to Date	-5.3%	2.9%	13.6%
Latest 12 Month Period*	1.3%	-0.6%	-0.4%

Table 2.2 Key Consumption and Stocks Indicators

	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
Total Change From:			
December 2005	-20.5%	-5.0%	2.7%
January 2005	-19.7%	-5.0%	6.3%
Year to Date	-19.7%	-5.0%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	4.0%	2.0%	n/a

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

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

Data for:
January 2006

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.1 Total Net Generation (All Sectors)

Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Jan-06	Jan-05	% Change	Dec-05	% Change
Coal	168,854	177,311	-4.8%	178,064	-5.2%
Petroleum Liquids	4,161	10,309	-59.6%	11,250	-63.0%
Natural Gas	41,819	51,727	-19.2%	52,844	-20.9%
Nuclear	71,841	69,828	2.9%	71,735	0.1%
Hydroelectric Conventional	27,084	23,851	13.6%	21,765	24.4%
All Other	11,399	10,203	11.7%	10,596	7.6%
Total (All Energy Sources)	325,160	343,229	-5.3%	346,254	-6.1%

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	Jan-06	Jan-05	% Change	Dec-05	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	88,363	92,966	-5.0%	92,986	-5.0%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	7,395	18,393	-59.8%	19,098	-61.3%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	355,511	442,459	-19.7%	447,424	-20.5%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 3.3 Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Jan-06	Jan-05	% Change	Dec-05	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	103,926	97,772	6.3%	101,237	2.7%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	52,981	42,719	24.0%	48,274	9.8%

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.

Section 4. Net Generation Trends

Data for:
January 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	January 2006	168,854	4,161	41,819	71,841	27,084	11,401	325,160
Prior Period	January 2005	January 2005	177,311	10,309	51,727	69,828	23,851	10,203	343,229
Percent Change			-4.8%	-59.6%	-19.2%	2.9%	13.6%	11.7%	-5.3%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	February 2005	January 2006	2,005,716	94,135	741,641	782,478	268,311	127,638	4,019,919
Prior Period	February 2004	January 2005	1,975,239	96,791	712,559	787,550	269,285	125,815	3,967,239
Percent Change			1.5%	-2.7%	4.1%	-0.6%	-0.4%	1.4%	1.3%

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

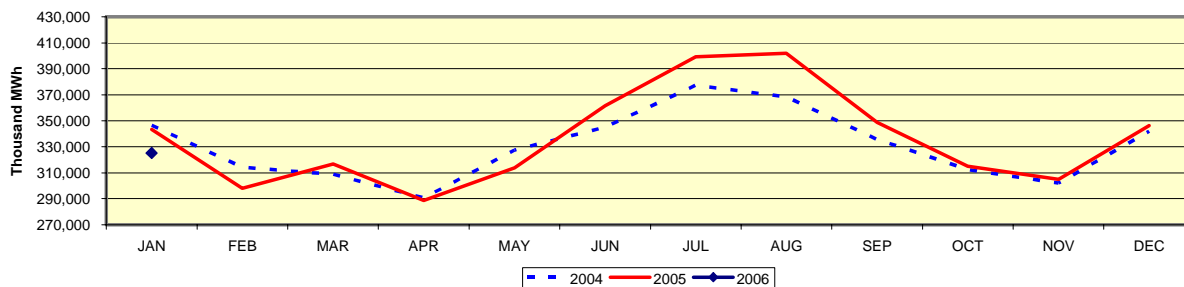


Figure 4.2 Fossil Fuel Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

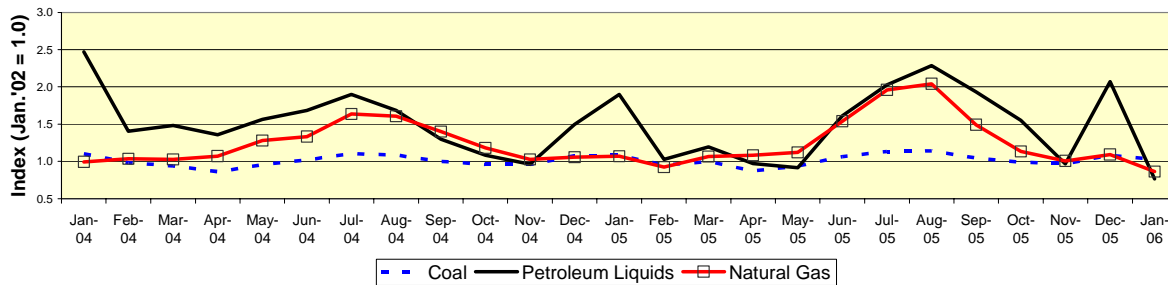
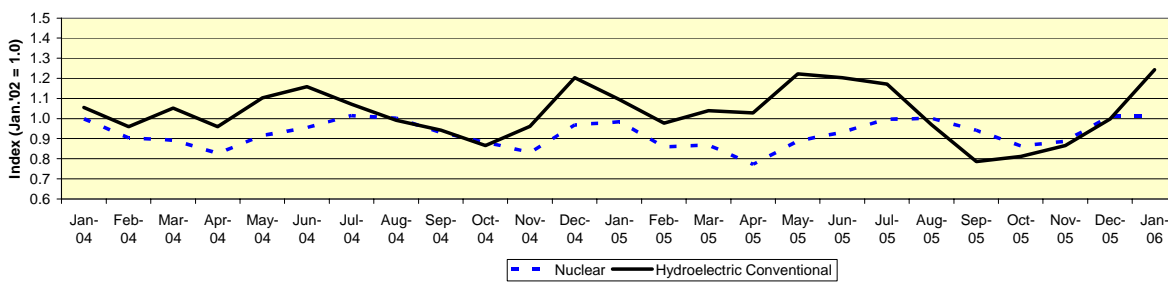


Figure 4.3 Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 5. Fossil Fuel Consumption and Stock Trends

Data for:
January 2006

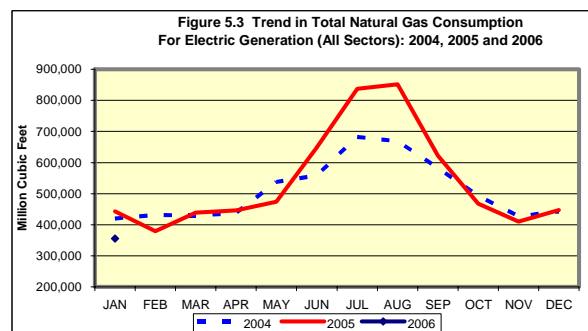
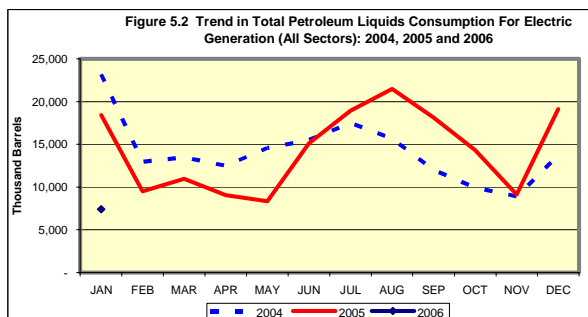
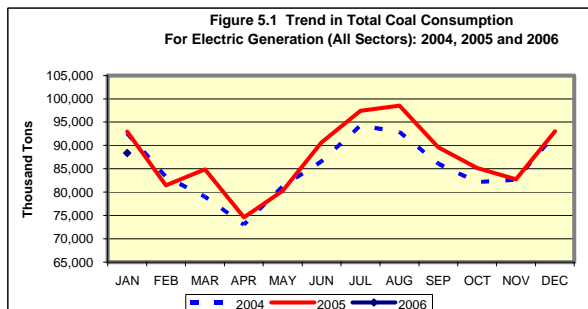
Table 5.1 Trends in Fossil Fuel Consumption For Electric Generation, Total (All Sectors)

Year-to-Date Comparison

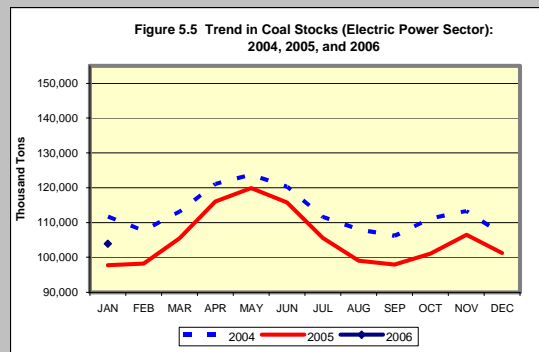
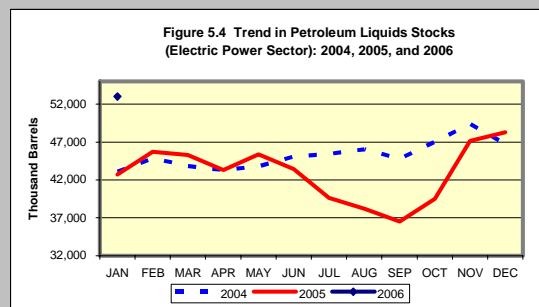
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	January 2006	January 2006	88,363	7,395	355,511
Prior Period	January 2005	January 2005	92,966	18,393	442,459
Percent Change			-5.0%	-59.8%	-19.7%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	February 2005	January 2006	1,046,574	161,410	6,379,024
Prior Period	February 2004	January 2005	1,026,373	165,028	6,133,498
Percent Change			2.0%	-2.2%	4.0%



Stocks Trends



Note: the Stocks data table is on page 3 of the report.

Section 6. Month-to-Month Comparisons: Electric Power Retail Sales and Average Prices

Data for:
January 2006

Retail Sales

Table 6.1 Retail Sales (Million kWh)

Ultimate Customer	Jan-06	Jan-05	% Change	Dec-05	% Change
Residential	120,971	125,138	-3.3%	120,612	0.3%
Commercial	100,961	98,870	2.1%	104,265	-3.2%
Industrial	80,745	81,701	-1.2%	83,073	-2.8%
Transportation	694	740	-6.2%	734	-5.4%
All Sectors	303,371	306,449	-1.0%	308,684	-1.7%

Average Retail Price

Table 6.2 Average Retail Price (Cents/kWh) -- U.S. Total

Ultimate Customer	Jan-06	Jan-05	% Change	Dec-05	% Change
Residential	9.53	8.47	12.5%	9.25	3.0%
Commercial	8.81	8.00	10.1%	8.74	0.8%
Industrial	5.71	5.07	12.6%	5.75	-0.7%
Transportation	7.67	6.91	11.0%	7.13	7.6%
All Sectors	8.27	7.41	11.6%	8.13	1.7%

Table 6.3 Average Retail Price (Cents/kWh) by Census Division

Census Division	Residential			All Sectors		
	Jan-06	Jan-05	% Change	Jan-06	Jan-05	% Change
New England	15.19	12.59	20.7%	14.10	11.27	25.1%
Mid Atlantic	12.41	11.24	10.4%	10.69	10.04	6.5%
East North Central	8.39	7.67	9.4%	7.08	6.56	7.9%
West North Central	7.31	6.73	8.6%	6.12	5.73	6.8%
South Atlantic	9.01	8.15	10.6%	7.94	7.17	10.7%
East South Central	7.46	6.74	10.7%	6.26	5.67	10.4%
West South Central	10.63	8.32	27.8%	9.06	7.09	27.8%
Mountain	8.27	7.91	4.6%	7.01	6.70	4.6%
Pacific Contiguous	10.16	9.54	6.5%	9.13	8.83	3.4%
Pacific Noncontiguous	18.76	15.90	18.0%	17.03	14.36	18.6%
U.S. Total	9.53	8.47	12.5%	8.27	7.41	11.6%

Section 7. Retail Sales Trends

Data for:
January 2006

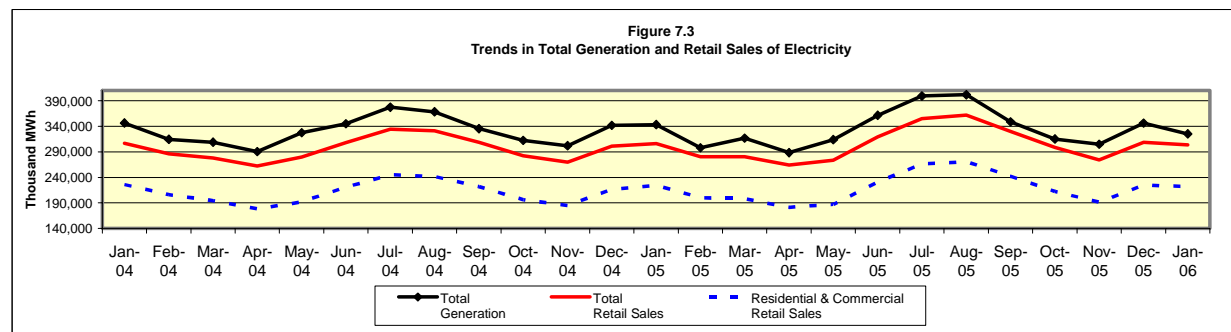
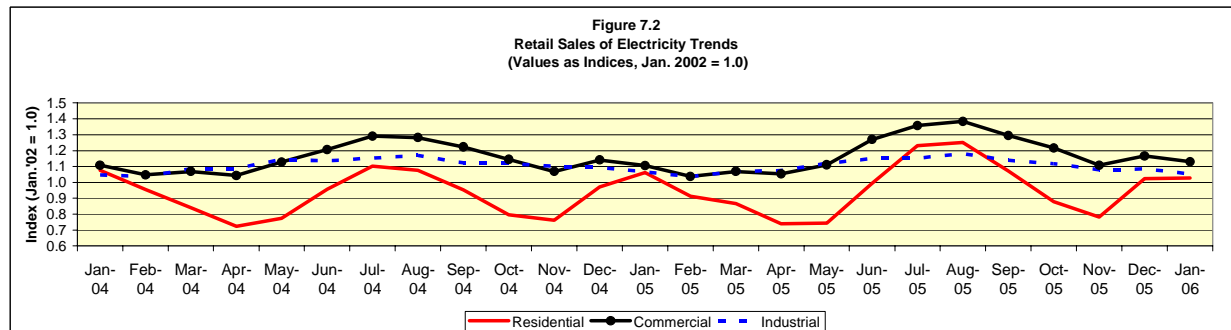
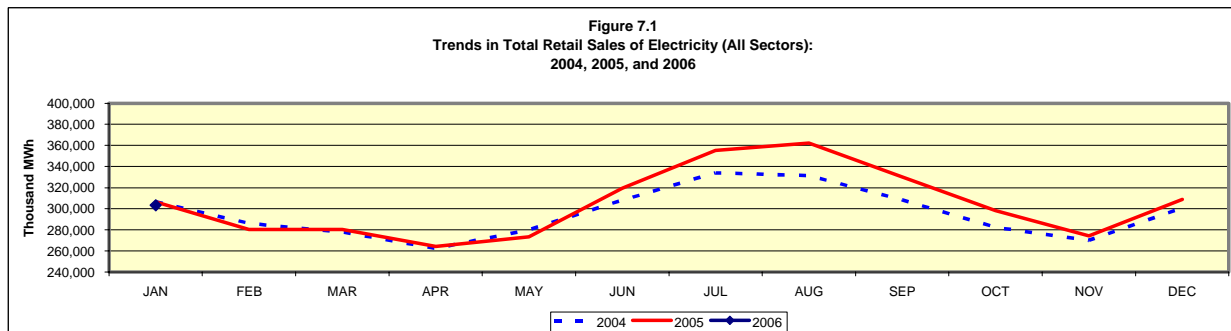
Table 7.1 Trends in Total Retail Sales of Electricity (All Sectors)
Millions of Kilowatthours

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2006	January 2006	120,971	100,961	80,745	694	303,371
Prior Period	January 2005	January 2005	125,138	98,870	81,701	740	306,449
Percent Change			-3.3%	2.1%	-1.2%	-6.2%	-1.0%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	February 2005	January 2006	1,356,953	1,268,792	1,015,775	8,213	3,649,733
Prior Period	February 2004	January 2005	1,291,960	1,228,926	1,019,997	7,186	3,548,069
Percent Change			5.0%	3.2%	-0.4%	14.3%	2.9%



Section 8. Average Retail Price Trends

Data for:
January 2006

**Table 8.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors)
Cents Per Kilowatthours**

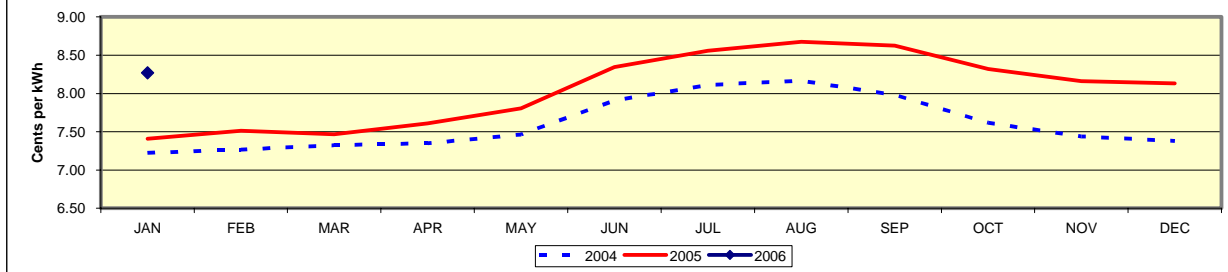
Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2006	January 2006	9.53	8.81	5.71	7.67	8.27
Prior Period	January 2005	January 2005	8.47	8.00	5.07	6.91	7.41
Percent Change			12.5%	10.1%	12.6%	11.0%	11.6%

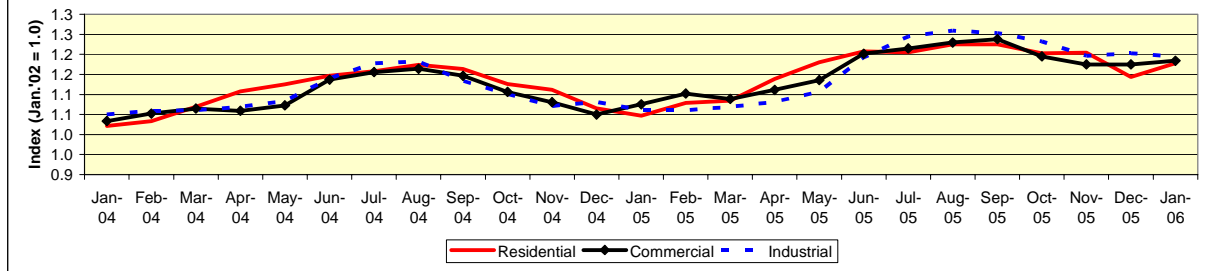
Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	February 2005	January 2006	9.52	8.74	5.62	7.51	8.16
Prior Period	February 2004	January 2005	8.99	8.18	5.27	7.16	7.64
Percent Change			5.9%	6.8%	6.6%	4.9%	6.8%

**Figure 8.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors):
2004, 2005, and 2006**



**Figure 8.2 Average Retail Price of Electricity Trends by Ultimate Customer
(Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)**



Section 9. Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Data for:
January 2006

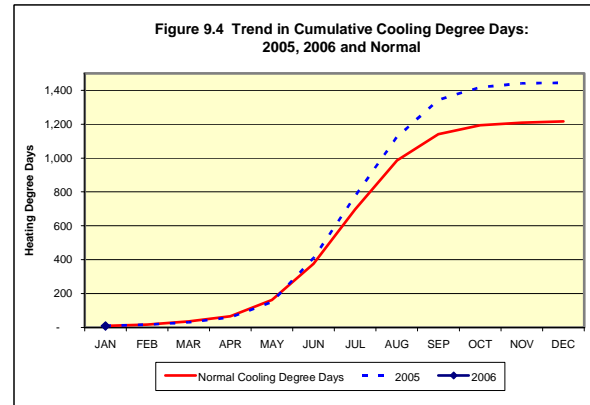
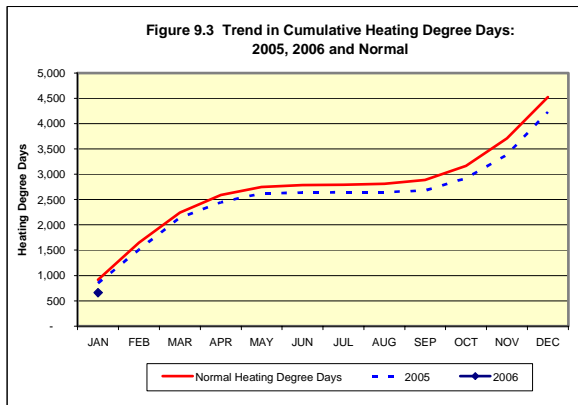
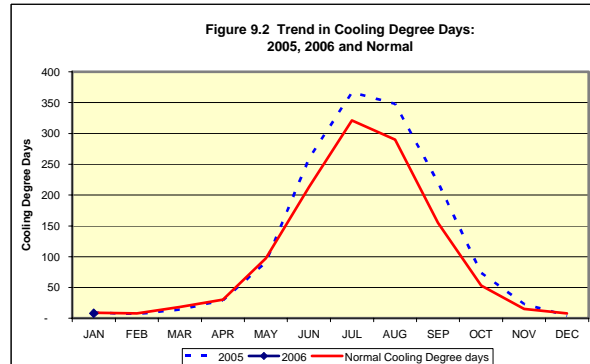
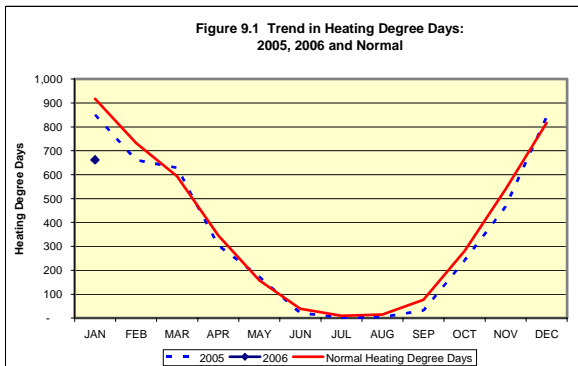
Table 9.1 Degree Days

	Month	Heating Degree Days			Cooling Degree Days		
		Heating Degree Days	Normal Heating Degree Days	Deviation From the Normal	Cooling Degree Days	Normal Cooling Degree Days	Deviation From the Normal
Current Period	January 2006	662	917	-255	8	9	-1
Previous Period	January 2005	851	917	-66	9	9	0
Percent Change		-22.2%			-11.1%		

Table 9.2 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	January 2006	662	8
Prior Period	January 2005	January 2005	851	9
Percent Change			-22.2%	-11.1%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	February 2005	January 2006	4,040	1,444
Prior Period	February 2004	January 2005	4,118	1,263
Percent Change			-1.9%	14.3%



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).