

Monthly Flash Estimates of

Electric Power Data

Data for:
September 2005

Section 1. Commentary

Consistent with the expected end-of-summer trend, in September 2005 retail sales of electricity were down 9.5 percent from August 2005. However, September 2005 retail sales were above the September 2004 level by 6.8 percent, residential demand showing the biggest increase (11.9 percent). Year-to-date, retail sales of electricity were up 3.6 percent from 2004. The main driving force behind higher electricity demand in September and year-to-date was the continued hotter than normal weather. Cooling degree days were 23.6 percent higher in September 2005 than September 2004. Year-to-date cooling degree days through September 2005 were 15.3 higher than last year and heating degree days were 1.3 percent lower during the same period.

Average retail prices for the rolling 12 months ending in September were ahead of 2004 prices by 4.8 percent, with higher fuel prices the major factor. Average retail prices were little changed from August to September 2005 (a decrease of 0.3 percent).

Electricity generation in September 2005 decreased 13.6 percent from August 2005 but was up 4.3 percent from September 2004, following the pattern of retail sales. Year-to-date electricity production through September was 2.6 percent higher than in 2004. Natural gas generation was up 10.7 percent during the same period, although as peak-load generation demand moderated in September 2005 from the previous month, gas generation declined by 26.5 percent from August 2005.

Petroleum-fired generation increased by 49.4 percent compared to September 2004. The increase appears to have been caused by the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the price and supply of natural gas. Generators continued to run down their petroleum liquid inventories, which dropped 4.7 percent from August and were 21.1 percent below September 2004 levels.

Coal generation was up 4.3 percent in September 2005 compared to September 2004. September hydroelectric generation reached its seasonal trough, dropping 19.1 percent from August 2005. Year-to-date hydro generation was up however by 3.2 percent. Nuclear generation was down 7.7 percent from August 2005 and down 2.3 percent year-to-date through September from its 2004 level.

In September 2005 coal stockpiles reached their lowest levels of the year declining another 1.0 percent from August 2005. Coal stocks stood at a level 8.2 percent below the September 2004 trough. High natural gas and petroleum liquids prices have increased demand for coal in 2005 and pushed the spot prices higher, causing a draw down on coal stockpiles. Powder River Basin transportation problems, limits to the railway haul capacity and the effects of the September hurricanes on coal transportation have all contributed to the decline in coal stocks. During the next couple of months, however, the seasonal coal stock build up should commence. (For more information on coal related issues visit <http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/coal/page/coalnews/coalmar.html>.)

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Section 2. Key Indicators of Generation, Consumption & Stocks

Data for:
September 2005

Table 2.1 Key Generation Indicators

	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
Total Change From:			
August 2005	-13.6%	-7.7%	-19.1%
September 2004	4.3%	-0.7%	-16.2%
Year to Date	2.6%	-2.3%	3.2%
Latest 12 Month Period*	2.4%	-1.5%	4.1%

Table 2.2 Key Consumption and Stocks Indicators

	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
Total Change From:			
August 2005	-26.0%	-9.0%	-1.0%
September 2004	9.8%	3.5%	-8.2%
Year to Date	9.9%	2.1%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	10.1%	1.9%	n/a

* Change in total consumption or generation for the latest 12 month period (October 2004 to September 2005) compared to the prior 12 month period (October 2003 to September 2004).

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.1 Total Net Generation (All Sectors)

Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Sep-05	Sep-04	% Change	Aug-05	% Change
Coal	171,327	164,251	4.3%	187,584	-8.7%
Petroleum Liquids	10,499	7,026	49.4%	12,329	-14.8%
Natural Gas	73,880	67,021	10.2%	100,577	-26.5%
Nuclear	65,480	65,932	-0.7%	70,963	-7.7%
Hydroelectric Conventional	17,259	20,591	-16.2%	21,323	-19.1%
All Other	10,494	9,703	8.2%	10,926	-4.0%
Total (All Energy Sources)	348,939	334,524	4.3%	403,702	-13.6%

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	Sep-05	Sep-04	% Change	Aug-05	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	89,505	86,515	3.5%	98,405	-9.0%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	17,997	12,093	48.8%	21,112	-14.8%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	631,772	575,356	9.8%	853,294	-26.0%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 3.3 Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Sep-05	Sep-04	% Change	Aug-05	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	98,143	106,919	-8.2%	99,098	-1.0%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	34,619	43,904	-21.1%	36,336	-4.7%

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:
September 2005

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 2005	September 2005	1,513,557	74,685	602,864	584,712	209,458	95,943	3,081,219
Prior Period	January 2004	September 2004	1,486,384	79,934	544,452	598,468	203,025	90,504	3,002,767
Percent Change			1.8%	-6.6%	10.7%	-2.3%	3.2%	6.0%	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	October 2004	September 2005	2,003,506	93,779	758,022	774,800	276,070	125,681	4,031,858
Prior Period	October 2003	September 2004	1,980,221	99,882	685,639	786,696	265,213	121,404	3,939,055
Percent Change			1.2%	-6.1%	10.6%	-1.5%	4.1%	3.5%	2.4%

Figure 4.1 Trends in Total Net Generation (All Sectors): 2003, 2004, and 2005

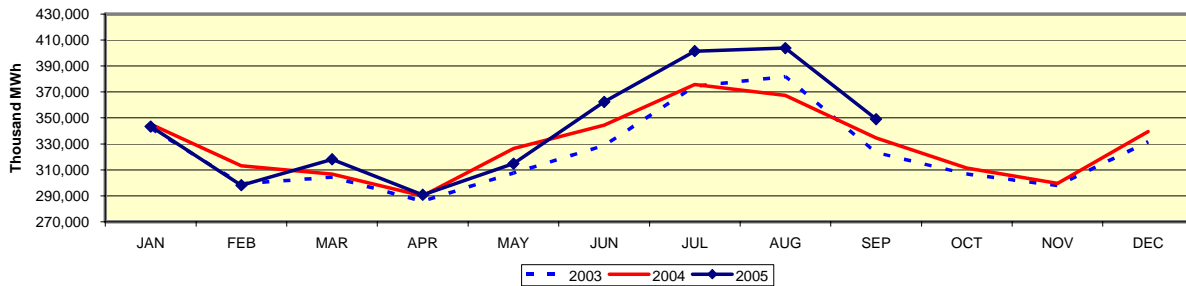


Figure 4.2 Fossil Fuel Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

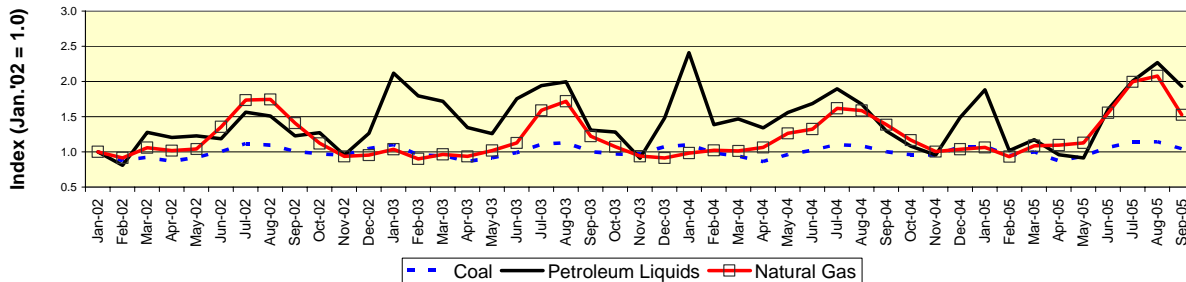
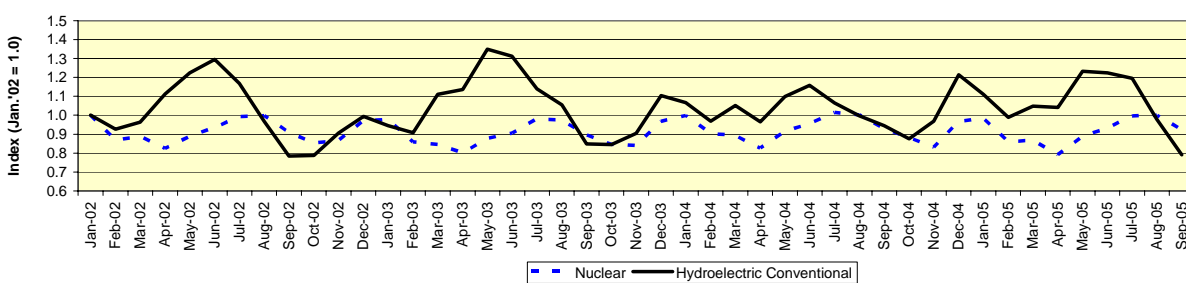


Figure 4.3 Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 5. Fossil Fuel Consumption and Stock Trends

Data for:
September 2005

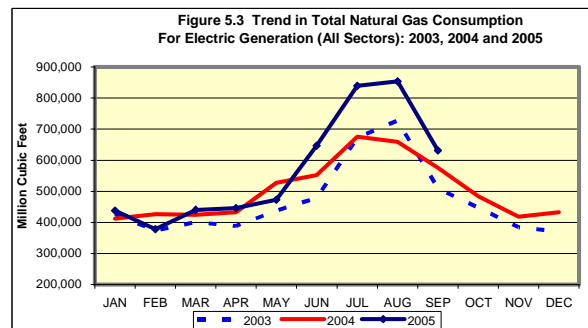
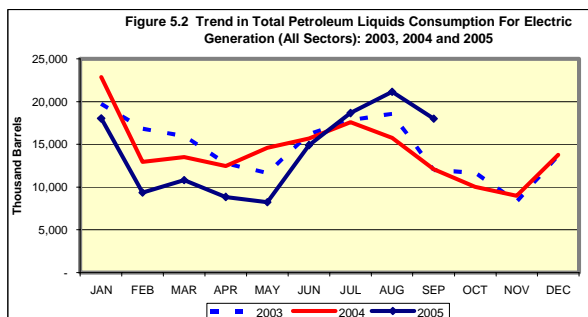
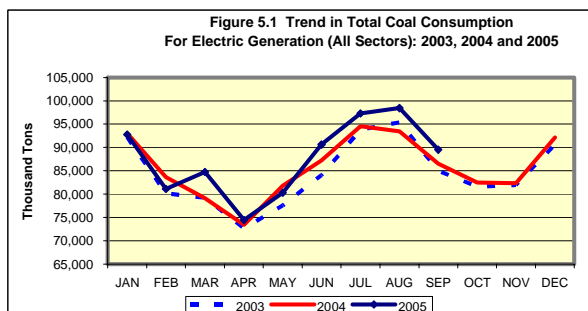
Table 5.1 Trends in Fossil Fuel Consumption For Electric Generation, Total (All Sectors)

Year-to-Date Comparison

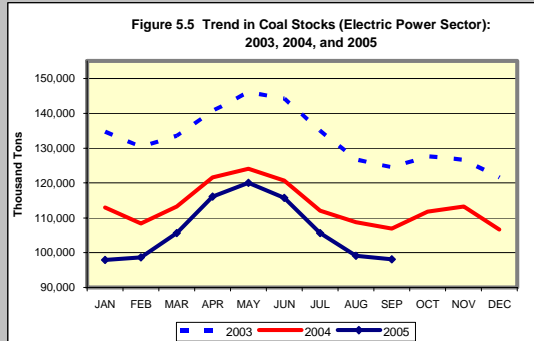
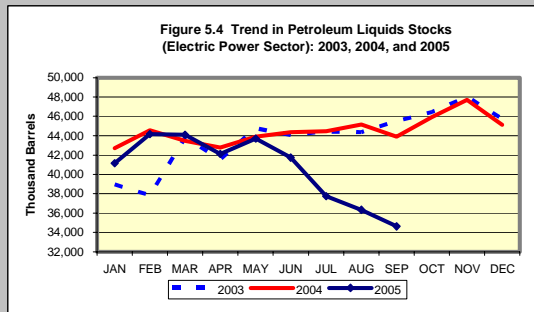
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	January 2005	September 2005	789,099	127,903	5,146,895
Prior Period	January 2004	September 2004	772,630	137,455	4,684,907
Percent Change			2.1%	-6.9%	9.9%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	October 2004	September 2005	1,046,034	160,693	6,482,322
Prior Period	October 2003	September 2004	1,026,748	171,164	5,886,757
Percent Change			1.9%	-6.1%	10.1%



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:
September
2005

Retail Sales

Table 6.1 Retail Sales (Million Kwh)

Ultimate Customer	Sep-05	Sep-04	% Change	Aug-05	% Change
Residential	126,068	112,688	11.9%	147,140	-14.3%
Commercial	116,388	109,512	6.3%	124,734	-6.7%
Industrial	86,842	86,172	0.8%	92,046	-5.7%
Transportation	707	648	9.2%	681	3.8%
All Sectors	330,005	309,019	6.8%	364,601	-9.5%

Average Retail Price

Table 6.2 Average Retail Price (Cents/kWh)

Ultimate Customer	Sep-05	Sep-04	% Change	Aug-05	% Change
Residential	9.92	9.37	5.9%	9.89	0.3%
Commercial	9.17	8.53	7.5%	9.10	0.8%
Industrial	6.02	5.27	14.2%	6.04	-0.3%
Transportation	7.99	6.66	20.0%	8.30	-3.7%
All Sectors	8.62	7.92	8.8%	8.65	-0.3%

Section 7. Retail Sales Trends

Data for:
September 2005

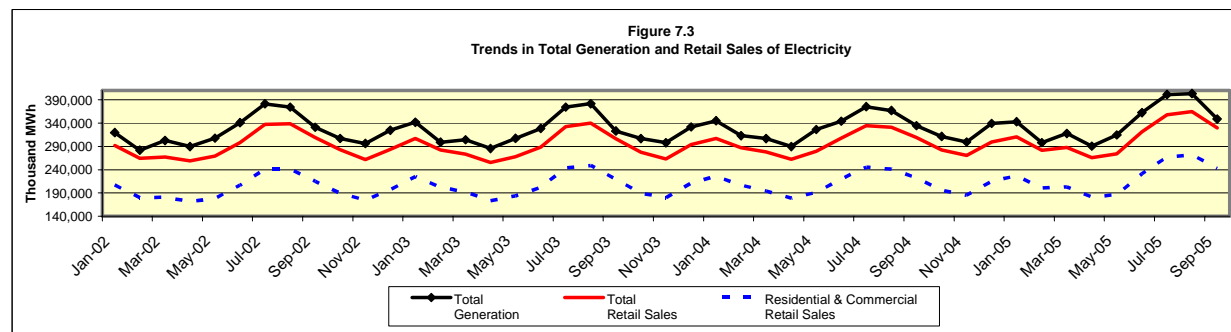
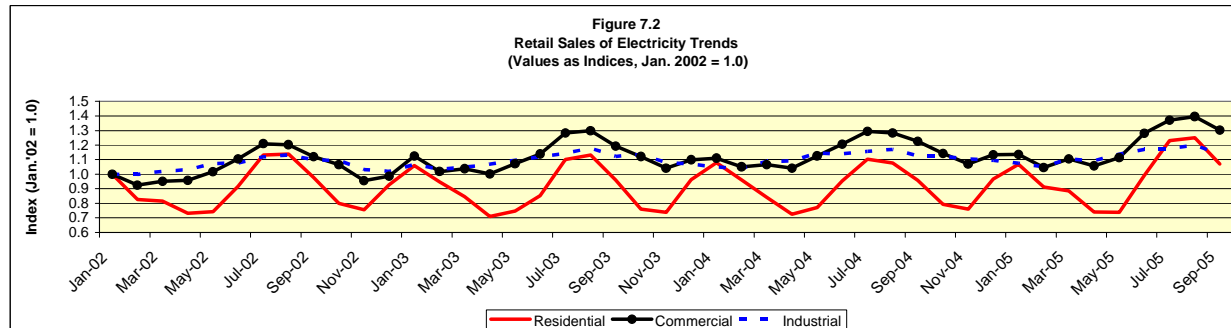
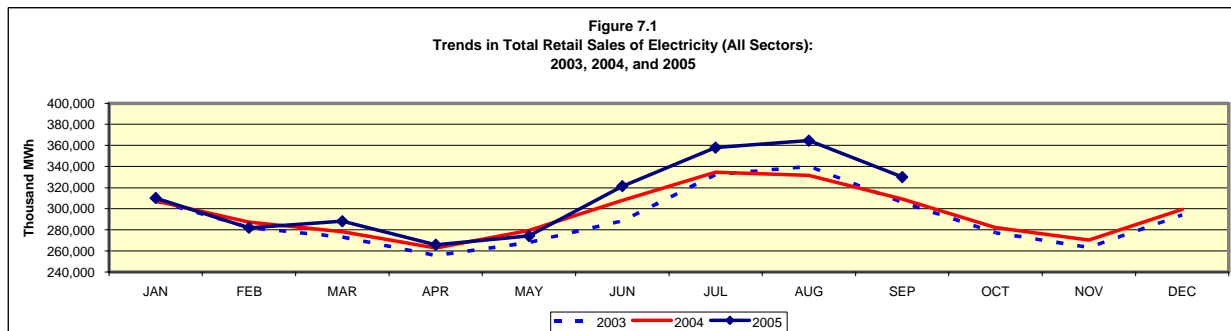
Table 7.1 Trends in Total Retail Sales of Electricity (All Sectors)
Millions of Kilowatthours

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2005	September 2005	1,045,555	965,793	776,670	6,190	2,794,208
Prior Period	January 2004	September 2004	996,724	929,531	766,365	5,758	2,698,378
Percent Change			4.9%	3.9%	1.3%	7.5%	3.6%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	October 2004	September 2005	1,342,280	1,264,767	1,031,188	8,106	3,646,342
Prior Period	October 2003	September 2004	1,286,683	1,220,885	1,017,939	7,438	3,532,945
Percent Change			4.3%	3.6%	1.3%	9.0%	3.2%



Section 8. Average Retail Price Trends

**Data for:
September
2005**

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

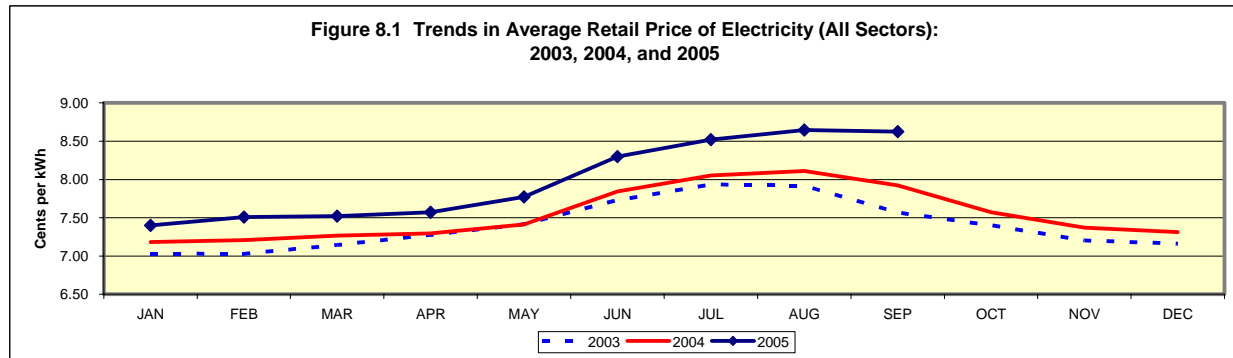
Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2005	September 2005	9.37	8.59	5.53	7.49	8.03
Prior Period	January 2004	September 2004	8.96	8.21	5.14	6.45	7.61
Percent Change			4.6%	4.6%	7.6%	16.1%	5.5%

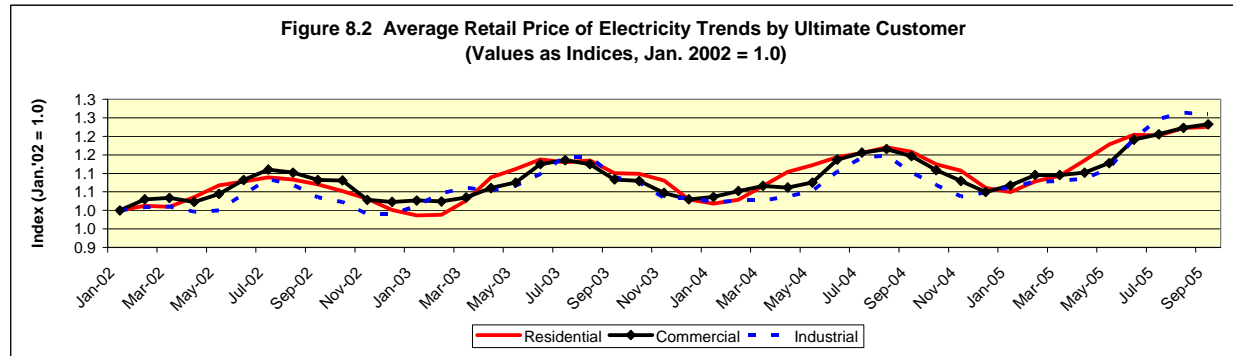
Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	October 2004	September 2005	9.26	8.46	5.40	7.27	7.89
Prior Period	October 2003	September 2004	8.89	8.12	5.11	6.63	7.53
Percent Change			4.2%	4.2%	5.7%	9.7%	4.8%

**Figure 8.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors):
2003, 2004, and 2005**



**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:
September 2005

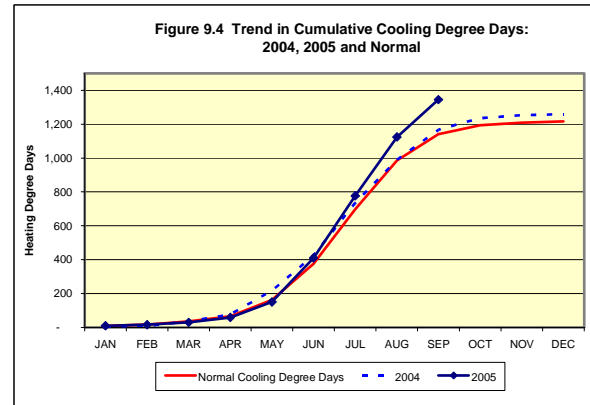
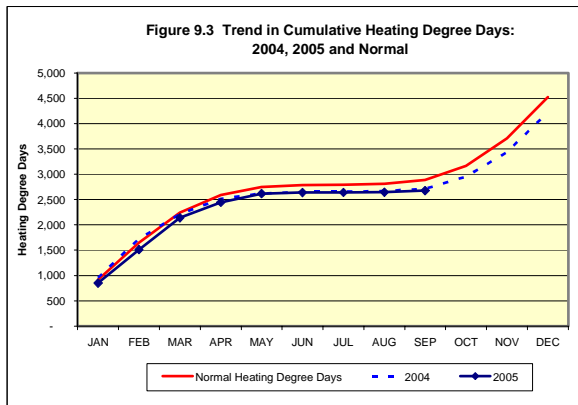
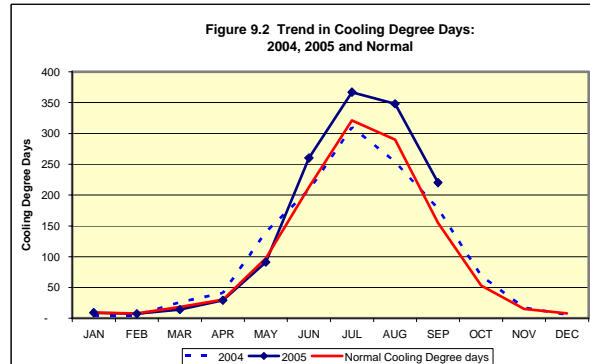
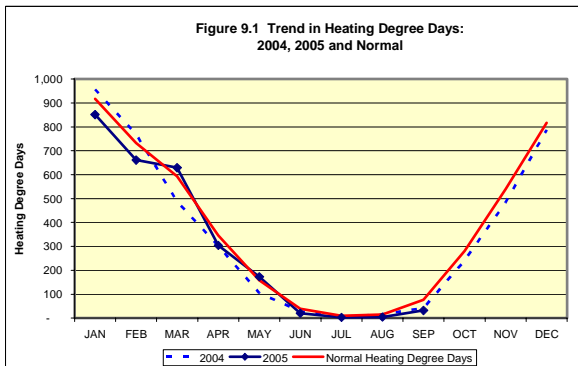
Table 9.1 Degree Days

	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	September 2005	32	77	-45	220	155	65
Previous Period	September 2004	42	77	-35	178	155	23
Percent Change		-23.8%			23.6%		

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 2005	September 2005	2,677	1,345
Prior Period	January 2004	September 2004	2,711	1,167
Percent Change			-1.3%	15.3%

Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	October 2004	September 2005	4,190	1,437
Prior Period	October 2003	September 2004	4,213	1,259
Percent Change			-0.5%	14.1%



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).