

Monthly Flash Estimates of Electric Power Data

Data for:
September 2008

Section 1. Commentary

In the contiguous United States, near normal temperatures were observed throughout the country during the month of September 2008. The only deviation from normal temperatures occurred in the southern United States as below average temperatures prevailed for the month, while the western United States experienced above average temperatures during September 2008. Accordingly, cooling degree days for the contiguous United States as a whole were 9.7 percent above the average for the month of September, and 11.0 percent below a warmer September 2007.

Retail sales of electricity for the month of September 2008 decreased 3.0 percent compared to the warmer temperatures and subsequent higher demand for electricity observed in September 2007. The average U.S. retail price of electricity for September 2008 showed a 9.1-percent increase from September 2007 and a 3.1-percent decrease from August 2008. For the 12-month period ending September 2008, the U.S. average retail price of electricity increased by 6.1 percent over the previous 12-month period ending September 2007. Higher fuel costs played the primary role in raising the U.S. average retail price during this most recent 12-month period.

In September 2008, the total electric power generation decreased 5.8 percent when compared to September 2007. The larger decline in electric power generation compared to retail sales of electricity is influenced by the fact that the utility billing cycles tend to lag electricity production in many areas. The western U.S. experienced its third driest September on record while almost all other regions experienced above average rainfall during September 2008. Conventional hydroelectric generation was 11.8 percent higher than for September 2007 as drought conditions across the country were more prevalent during this time last year. For the 12-month period ending September 2008, conventional hydroelectric generation increased by 0.2 percent over the previous 12-month period ending September 2007.

September 2008 natural gas generation was down 12.8 percent, while petroleum liquids generation was down by 13.4 percent when compared to the warmer September 2007. For the 12-month period ending September 2008, natural gas generation increased by 1.2 percent and petroleum liquids generation decreased by 36.1 percent over the previous 12-month period ending September 2007. Natural gas consumption decreased by 1.2 percent and petroleum liquids consumption decreased 35.9 percent over the previous 12-month period ending September 2007.

Total coal stocks in the electric power sector were up 3.6 percent from the previous month as the United States entered its seasonal build-up of coal stocks. The August 2008-to-September 2008 change in coal stocks consisted of a 1.8-percent increase for bituminous and 5.0-percent increase for subbituminous coal. Petroleum liquids stocks were 2.6 percent lower than August 2008.

References for weather data:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2008/sep/national.html>

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Section 2. Key Indicators of Generation, Consumption & Stocks

Data for:
September 2008

Table 2.1 Key Generation Indicators

	Total Generation	Nuclear Generation	Hydroelectric Generation
Total Change From:			
August 2008	-13.5%	-7.7%	-20.6%
September 2007	-5.8%	-0.9%	11.8%
Year to Date	-0.8%	-0.2%	5.2%
Latest 12 Month Period*	0.0%	1.0%	0.2%

Table 2.2 Key Consumption and Stocks Indicators

	Natural Gas Consumption	Coal Consumption	Coal Stocks
Total Change From:			
August 2008	-21.9%	-11.3%	3.6%
September 2007	-16.3%	-4.2%	2.2%
Year to Date	-6.9%	-0.2%	n/a
Latest 12 Month Period*	-1.2%	0.1%	n/a

* Change in total consumption or generation for the latest 12 month period (October 2007 to September 2008) compared to the prior 12 month period (October 2006 to September 2007).

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

**Data for:
September 2008**

Net Generation (Total, All Sectors)

Table 3.1 Total Net Generation (All Sectors)

Net Generation (thousand megawatthours)	Sep-08	Sep-07	% Change	Aug-08	% Change
Coal	161,079	169,839	-5.2%	181,313	-11.2%
Petroleum Liquids	3,159	3,648	-13.4%	2,521	25.3%
Natural Gas	76,554	87,741	-12.8%	98,034	-21.9%
Nuclear	67,003	67,582	-0.9%	72,573	-7.7%
Hydroelectric Conventional	16,391	14,667	11.8%	20,651	-20.6%
All Other	10,379	11,503	-9.8%	11,670	-11.1%
Total (All Energy Sources)	334,564	354,981	-5.8%	386,760	-13.5%

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-08	Sep-07	% Change	Aug-08	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	85,115	88,807	-4.2%	95,936	-11.3%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	5,316	6,372	-16.6%	4,374	21.5%
Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)	616,664	736,495	-16.3%	789,424	-21.9%

Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Table 3.3 Total Fossil Fuel Stocks (Electric Power Sector)

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Sep-08	Sep-07	% Change	Aug-08	% Change
Coal (Thousand Short Tons)	147,094	143,890	2.2%	141,957	3.6%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	39,169	43,496	-9.9%	40,213	-2.6%

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:
September 2008

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 2008	September 2008	1,515,083	24,598	673,314	606,491	209,563	111,080	3,140,129
Prior Period	January 2007	September 2007	1,523,714	41,671	688,035	607,846	199,261	106,087	3,166,614
Percent Difference			-0.6%	-41.0%	-2.1%	-0.2%	5.2%	4.7%	-0.8%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal	Petroleum Liquids	Natural Gas	Nuclear	Hydroelectric Conventional	All Other	Total
Current Period	October 2007	September 2008	2,011,941	32,883	878,490	805,131	258,614	145,970	4,133,029
Prior Period	October 2006	September 2007	2,018,052	51,485	868,098	797,238	258,184	140,380	4,133,437
Percent Difference			-0.3%	-36.1%	1.2%	1.0%	0.2%	4.0%	0.0%

Figure 4.1 Trends in Total Net Generation (All Sectors): 2006, 2007, and 2008

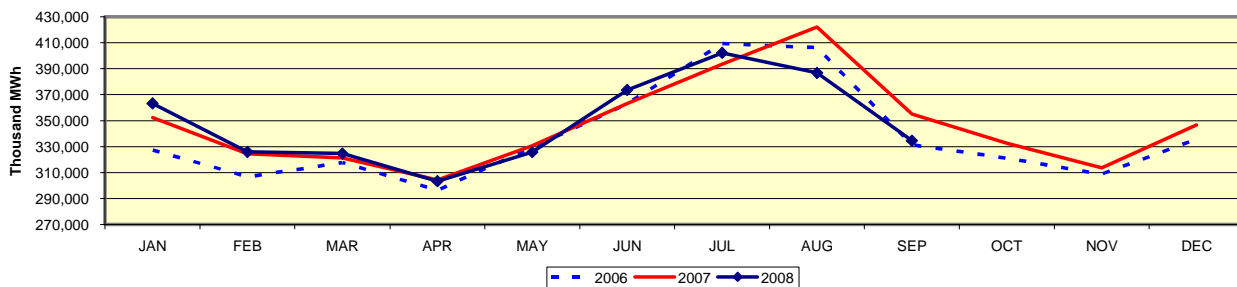


Figure 4.2 Fossil Fuel Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)

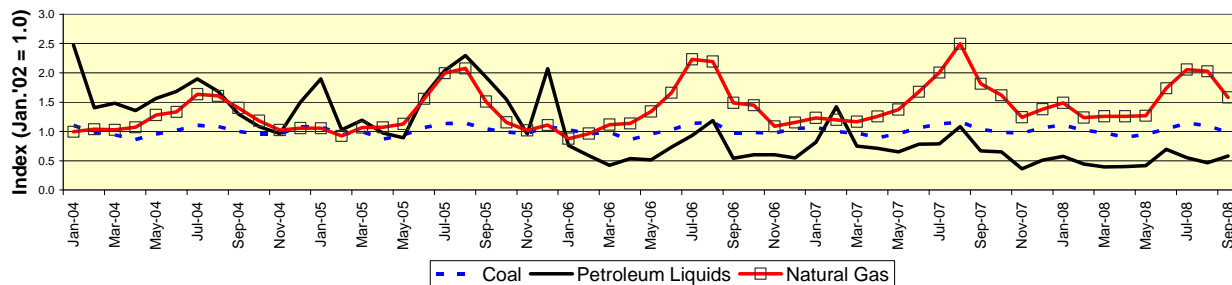
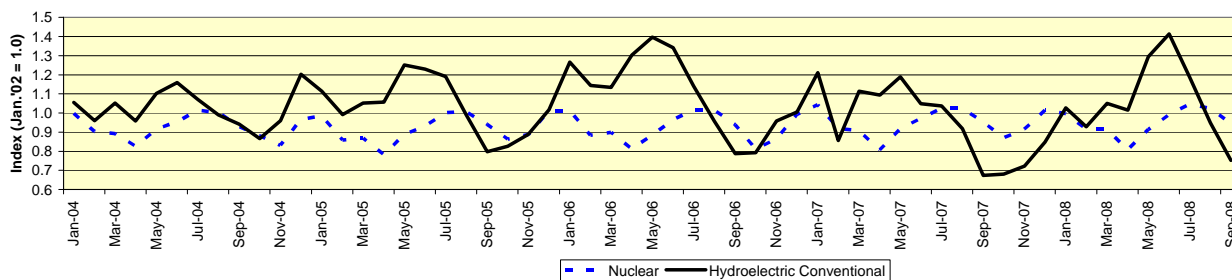


Figure 4.3 Nuclear and Hydroelectric Generation Trends (Values as Indices, Jan. 2002 = 1.0)



Section 5. Fossil Fuel Consumption Trends

Data for:
September 2008

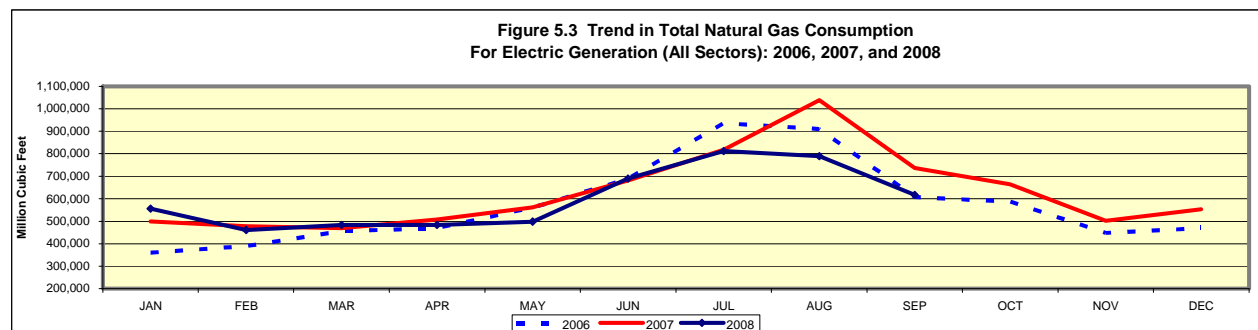
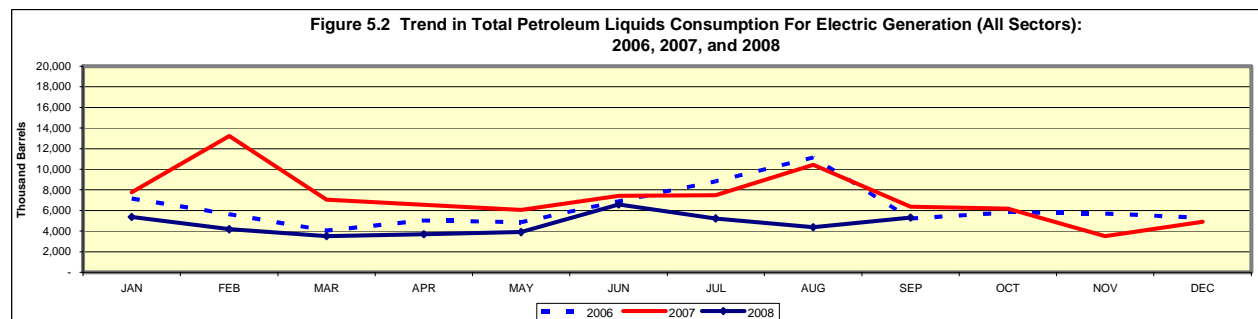
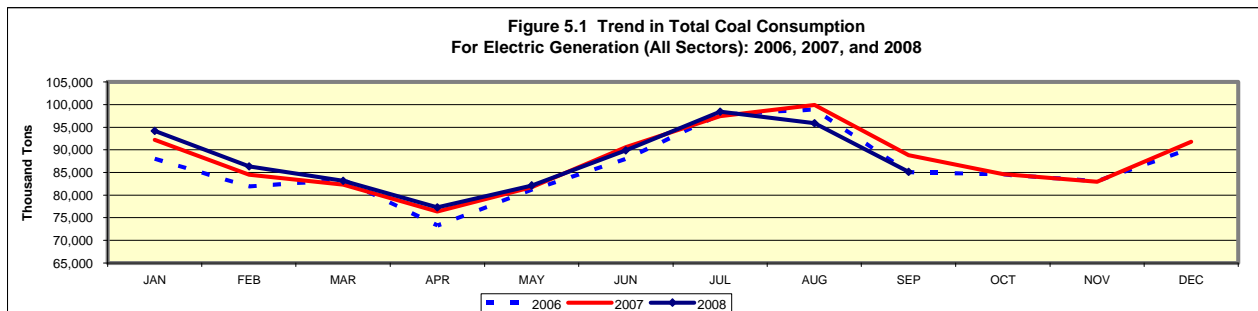
Table 5.1 Trends in Fossil Fuel Consumption For Electric Generation, Total (All Sectors)

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Coal (Thousand Tons)	Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	Natural Gas (Million Cubic Feet)
Current Period	January 2008	September 2008	792,518	42,209	5,390,077
Prior Period	January 2007	September 2007	793,934	72,400	5,790,061
Percent Difference			-0.2%	-41.7%	-6.9%

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 2007	September 2008	1,051,930	56,814	7,107,461
Prior Period	October 2006	September 2007	1,050,580	88,687	7,190,216
Percent Difference			0.1%	-35.9%	-1.2%

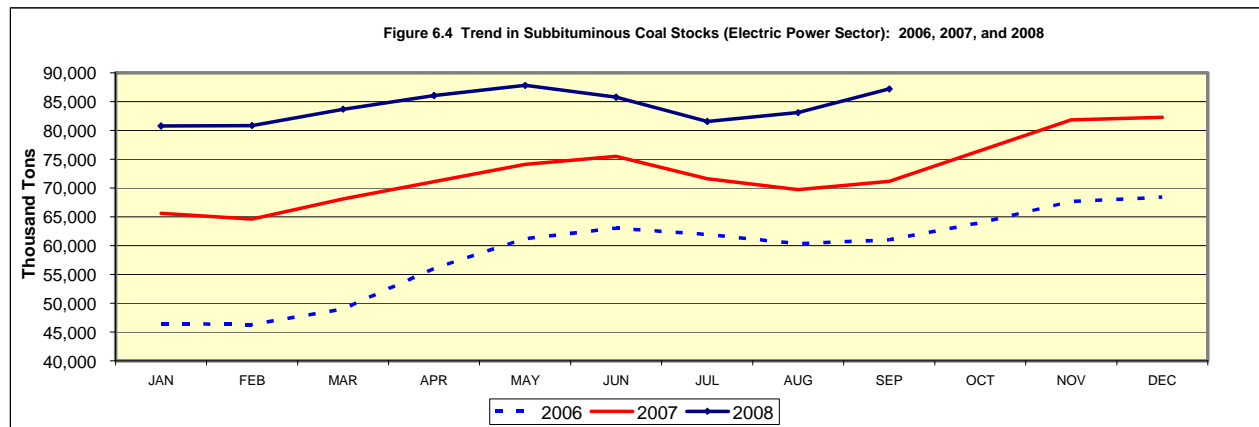
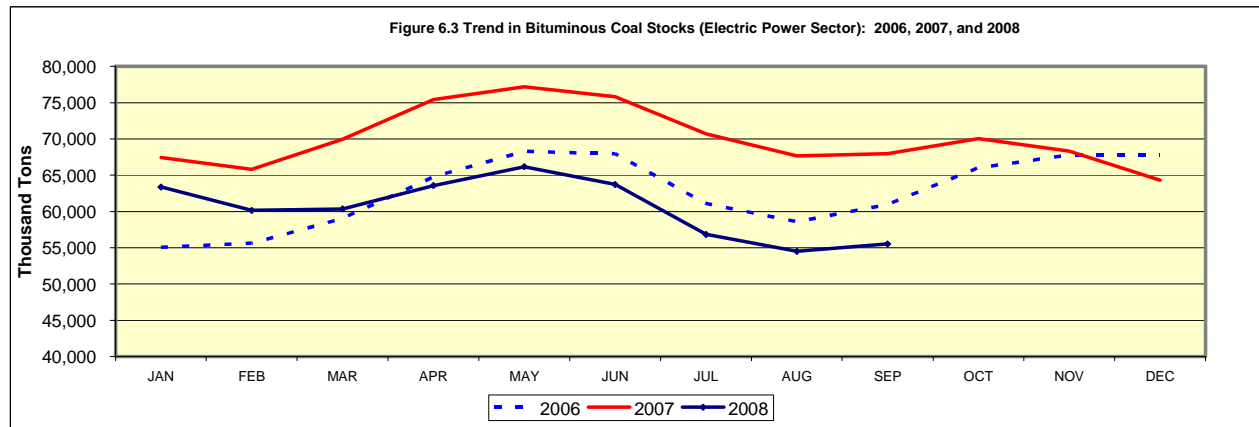
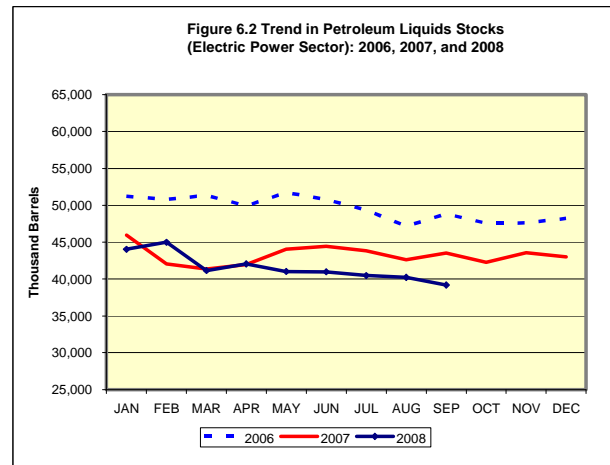
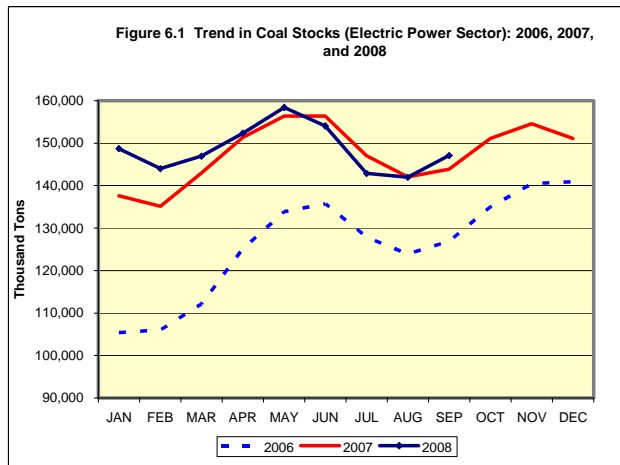


Section 6. Fossil Fuel Stock Trends

Data for:
September 2008

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

Fossil Fuel Stocks	Sep-08	Sep-07	% Change	Aug-08	% Change
Coal, Total (Thousand Short Tons)	147,094	143,890	2.2%	141,957	3.6%
Bituminous (includes anthracite and coal synfuel)	55,508	67,970	-18.3%	54,507	1.8%
Subbituminous	87,205	71,157	22.6%	83,078	5.0%
Lignite	4,381	4,763	-8.0%	4,372	0.2%
Petroleum Liquids (Thousand Barrels)	39,169	43,496	-9.9%	40,213	-2.6%



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

Data for:
September 2008

Retail Sales

Table 7.1 Retail Sales (Million kWh)

Ultimate Customer	Sep-08	Sep-07	% Change	Aug-08	% Change
Residential	118,466	129,475	-8.5%	139,511	-15.1%
Commercial	121,717	120,415	1.1%	127,484	-4.5%
Industrial	85,260	85,675	-0.5%	87,189	-2.2%
Transportation	622	648	-4.0%	640	-2.8%
All Sectors	326,065	336,214	-3.0%	354,824	-8.1%

Average Retail Price

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

Ultimate Customer	Sep-08	Sep-07	% Change	Aug-08	% Change
Residential	11.94	10.94	9.1%	12.10	-1.3%
Commercial	10.76	9.88	8.9%	11.07	-2.8%
Industrial	7.35	6.55	12.2%	7.61	-3.4%
Transportation	13.87	10.67	30.0%	12.58	10.3%
All Sectors	10.30	9.44	9.1%	10.63	-3.1%

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

Census Division	Residential			All Sectors		
	Sep-08	Sep-07	% Change	Sep-08	Sep-07	% Change
New England	18.12	16.46	10.1%	16.09	14.98	7.4%
Middle Atlantic	16.07	14.59	10.1%	14.10	13.00	8.5%
East North Central	10.72	9.99	7.3%	8.61	8.07	6.7%
West North Central	9.18	8.51	7.9%	7.42	6.98	6.3%
South Atlantic	11.31	10.38	9.0%	9.90	8.98	10.2%
East South Central	9.52	8.22	15.8%	8.15	7.04	15.8%
West South Central	12.52	11.40	9.8%	10.72	9.58	11.9%
Mountain	10.36	9.77	6.0%	8.69	8.15	6.6%
Pacific Contiguous	12.80	13.06	-2.0%	11.75	11.77	-0.2%
Pacific Noncontiguous	29.52	20.65	43.0%	26.53	18.12	46.4%
U.S. Total	11.94	10.94	9.1%	10.30	9.44	9.1%

Section 8. Retail Sales Trends

Data for:
September 2008

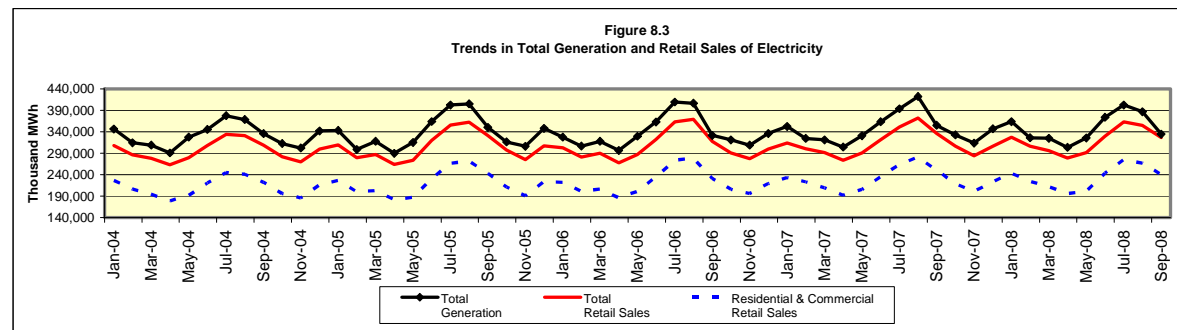
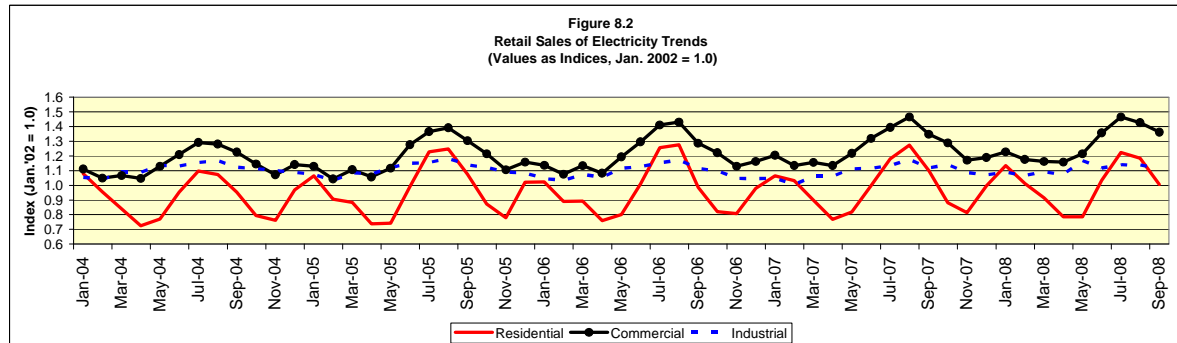
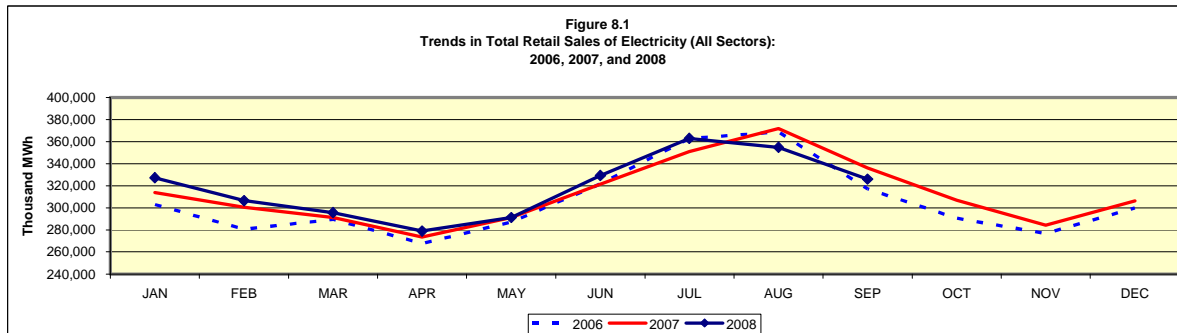
Table 8.1 Trends in Total Retail Sales of Electricity (All Sectors)
Millions of Kilowatthours

Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2008	September 2008	1,069,174	1,031,925	765,845	5,732	2,872,675
Prior Period	January 2007	September 2007	1,074,882	1,016,602	753,291	5,865	2,850,639
Percent Difference			-0.5%	1.5%	1.7%	-2.3%	0.8%

Comparison to Prior Twelve-Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	October 2007	September 2008	1,386,203	1,357,996	1,018,382	7,605	3,770,185
Prior Period	October 2006	September 2007	1,380,852	1,331,379	999,219	7,677	3,719,126
Percent Difference			0.4%	2.0%	1.9%	-0.9%	1.4%



Section 9. Average Retail Price Trends

Data for:
September
2008

**Table 9.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors)
Cents per Kilowatthour**

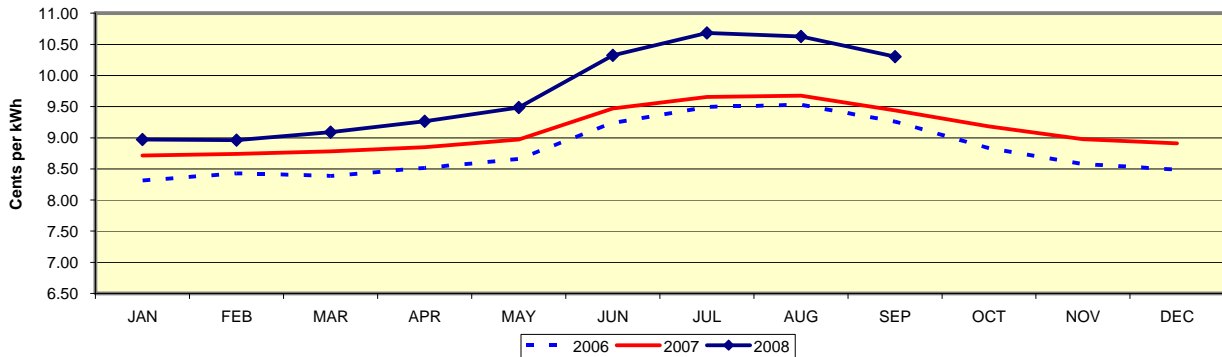
Year-to-Date Comparison

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	January 2008	September 2008	11.29	10.31	6.99	11.56	9.79
Prior Period	January 2007	September 2007	10.65	9.68	6.38	10.54	9.18
Percent Difference			6.0%	6.5%	9.6%	9.7%	6.6%

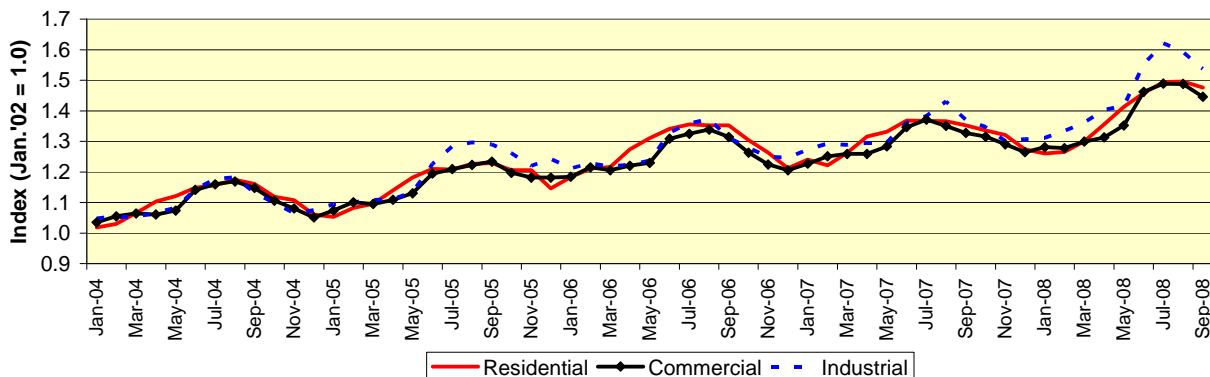
Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period

	Starting Month	Ending Month	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total (All Sectors)
Current Period	October 2007	September 2008	11.13	10.14	6.82	11.18	9.61
Prior Period	October 2006	September 2007	10.54	9.59	6.30	10.33	9.06
Percent Difference			5.6%	5.7%	8.3%	8.2%	6.1%

**Figure 9.1 Trends in Average Retail Price of Electricity (All Sectors):
2006, 2007, and 2008**



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



Section 10. Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Data for:
September 2008

Table 10.1 Degree Days

		Heating Degree Days				Cooling Degree Days			
	Month	Heating Degree Days	Normal Heating Degree Days	Deviation From Normal	Percent Difference From Normal	Cooling Degree Days	Normal Cooling Degree Days	Deviation From Normal	Percent Difference From Normal
Current Period	September 2008	59	77	-18	-23.4%	170	155	15	9.7%
Prior Period	September 2007	44	77	-33	-42.9%	191	155	36	23.2%
Percent Difference		34.1%				-11.0%			

Table 10.2 Trends in Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Year-to-Date Comparison					Comparison to Prior 12 Month Period				
	Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days		Starting Month	Ending Month	Heating Degree Days	Cooling Degree Days
Current Period	January 2008	September 2008	2,855	1,211	Current Period	October 2007	September 2008	4,351	1,321
Prior Period	January 2007	September 2007	2,759	1,285	Prior Period	October 2006	September 2007	4,220	1,356
Percent Difference			3.5%	-5.8%	Percent Difference			3.1%	-2.6%

Figure 10.1 Deviation From Normal: Heating Degree Days, 2008

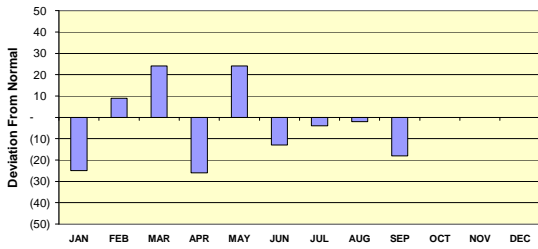


Figure 10.2 Deviation From Normal: Cooling Degree Days, 2008

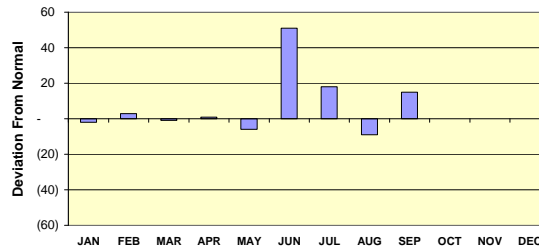


Figure 10.3 Trend in Heating Degree Days: 2007, 2008, and Normal

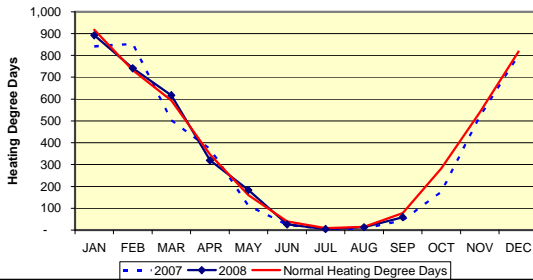


Figure 10.4 Trend in Cooling Degree Days: 2007, 2008, and Normal

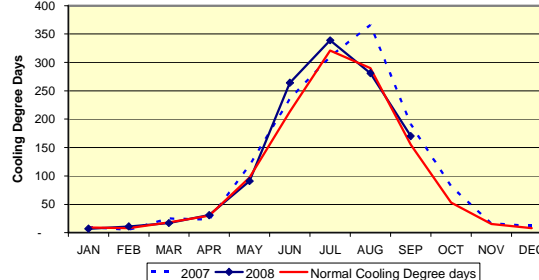


Figure 10.5 Trend in Cumulative Heating Degree Days: 2007, 2008, and Normal

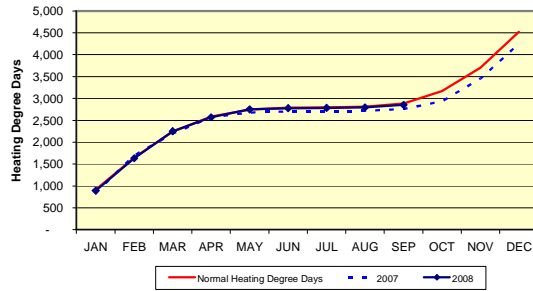
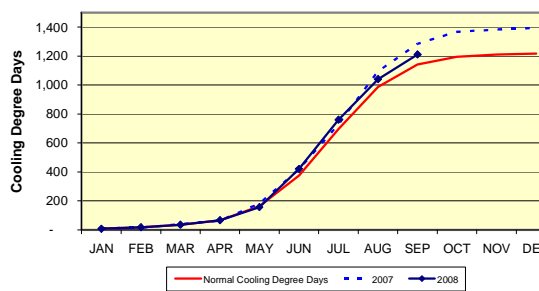


Figure 10.6 Trend in Cumulative Cooling Degree Days: 2007, 2008, and Normal



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," and Form EIA-923, "Power Plant Operations 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-923, approximately 1590 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).