



*Independent Statistics & Analysis*

U.S. Energy Information  
Administration

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## **Natural gas will account for biggest share of U.S. electricity for first time in 2016**

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For the first time on an annual basis, the amount of U.S. electricity generated by natural gas-fired power plants is expected to exceed coal-fired generation.

In its new monthly forecast, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said 33% of U.S. electricity will come from natural gas this year while 32% will come from coal.

The electric power sector's use of coal this year is expected to decline by 29 million short tons or by about 4% because of both mild winter weather and continued strong competition from low-priced natural gas used as an electricity-generating fuel.

Record high U.S. natural gas production is pushing down wholesale natural gas prices which recently sank to their lowest levels in more than 17 years.

More coal-fired generating units are also scheduled to shut down this year.

Jonathan Cogan, for EIA, Washington