

Power Outage Trends in California, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas from 2015 to 2023

https://github.com/sarahj-hall/Antonucci_Hall_Huang_Kuehn_ENV872_FinalProject.git

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1 Rationale and Research Questions

Electric power outages are costly for both utilities and their customers. Outages disrupt economic activity, and impact critical facilities such as hospitals (Wing et al., 2025). The United States electric grid is increasingly vulnerable to outages due to increasing extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, heatwaves, wildfires, and winter storms, which are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change (Wendel, 2024). Because many of these events occur during specific times of the year, understanding weather power outages follow a seasonal pattern is important for planning and resilience. If outages tend to occur in specific months, utilities and communities can better allocate resources, resilience investments, and emergency preparedness.

At the same time, electric utilities have made advancements in system planning, grid hardening, and outage detection (IBM, 2025). Together this raises key questions about whether outages are becoming more or less frequent, whether they show predictable seasonal cycles, and whether their impacts are increasing over time.

To address these questions, this study focuses on Texas, California, Florida, and Pennsylvania. These states represent diverse geographic regions, climates, and electric power systems. For each state, the study examines trends in the number of power outages, seasonality, and severity of outages. Customer weighted hours of outages will be used to quantify the impact of outages, as it combines the number of customers affected with the outage duration.

The research questions of this study are:

- Question 1: How has the number of power outages changed over time?
- Question 2: Is there a seasonal trend? Are certain months more prone to outages?
- Question 3: How has the severity of power outages changed over time?

We hypothesize that (1) the number of power outages have increased over time in response to rising extreme climate events, (2) that each state has distinct seasonal power outage patterns related to its dominant weather hazards, and (3) the severity of power outages have increase over time, which will be reflected in an increase in the customer weighted ours of outages.

2 Dataset Information

The Event-correlated Outage Dataset in America by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory was downloaded from the Open Energy Data Initiative (OEDI) (<https://data.openei.org/submissions/6458>). The dataset includes an aggregated and event-correlated analysis of power outages in the United States. The specific dataset selected for this analysis is the Aggregated Outage Data which integrates data from the Environment for the Analysis of Geo-Located Energy Information (EAGLE-I), and Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties 2024 (CO-EST2024-POP). The EAGLE-I dataset, provides county-level electricity outage estimates at 15-minute intervals from 2014 to 2023. It encompasses over 146 million customers, but this coverage has increased over time from 137 million in 2018. EAGLE-I only started providing data quality estimates starting in 2018. The Aggregated Outage Dataset provides monthly outage data at the state level, including total number of outages, the maximum duration of outages, and the customer weighted average of outages.

The data was wrangled by combining the yearly data from 2015 to 2023 into one dataframe. The year 2014 was removed from the analysis because it did not have monthly data, only the yearly summary. From this file, four datasets were created by filtering for each state (CA, FL, PA, and TX). For each state, the monthly value equal to 0 was filtered out, which represented the yearly summary. Additionally, a date column was added that combined the monthly and yearly columns into a date object.

This data structure shown in Table 1 applies to all four state datasets. Table 2 summarizes the key statistical characteristics of each datasets.

Table 1: Summary of Outage Dataset Structure

Variable	Description	Units
state	Two-letter state abbreviation	N/A
year	Year of outage	N/A
month	Month of outage	N/A
outage_count	Number of outages per month	N/A
max_outage_duration	Longest outage duration in a month	Hours
customer_weighted_hours	Customer-weighted outage hours	N/A
date	Date of outage	N/A

Table 2: Summary Statistics of CA, FL, PA, and TX Datasets

State	Outage Count Range	Outage Count Mean	Max Duration Range	Max Duration Mean	Customer Weighted Hours Range	Customer Weighted Hours Mean
CA	140–2599	900.55	27.25–609.75	131.82	491034.75–88045909.75	6,151,189
FL	402–1515	970.73	11.5–532.75	56.80	438767.25–532294703.25	9,390,167
PA	336–1312	600.20	13.5–140.5	46.74	333846–28965544.5	1,970,894
TX	120–2361	1,108.82	6–723.75	76.26	167452–227923742	5,712,808

3 Exploratory Analysis

The exploratory analysis of the data involved initial visualizations of the power outage counts for each state. There was no missing data for any of the states during the time frame. For each state, a chart was created of power outages from 2015 to 2023 and another chart of power outages by month group by year. This provided a preview of the overall trend and seasonal trend occurring in the power outage data, but further analysis is needed to quantify these trends.

3.0.1 California

Initial data exploration of California power outage data suggest a slight increasing trend (Figure 1). Furthermore, Figure 2 shows a clear increase in the number of outages every single month from 2015 to 2023. The monthly plot does not indicate that any particular month consistently experiences a higher number of power outages.

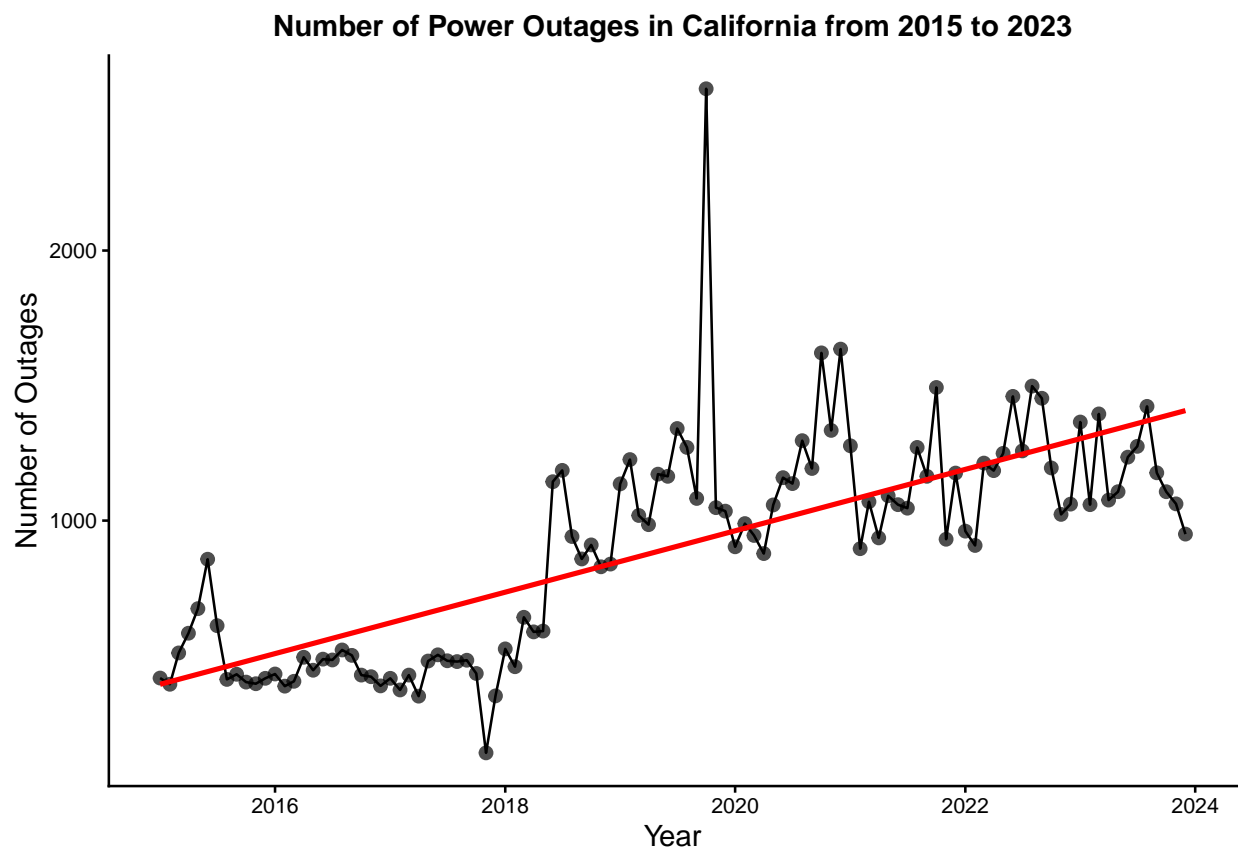


Figure 1: Yearly plot of power outages in California from 2015 to 2023.

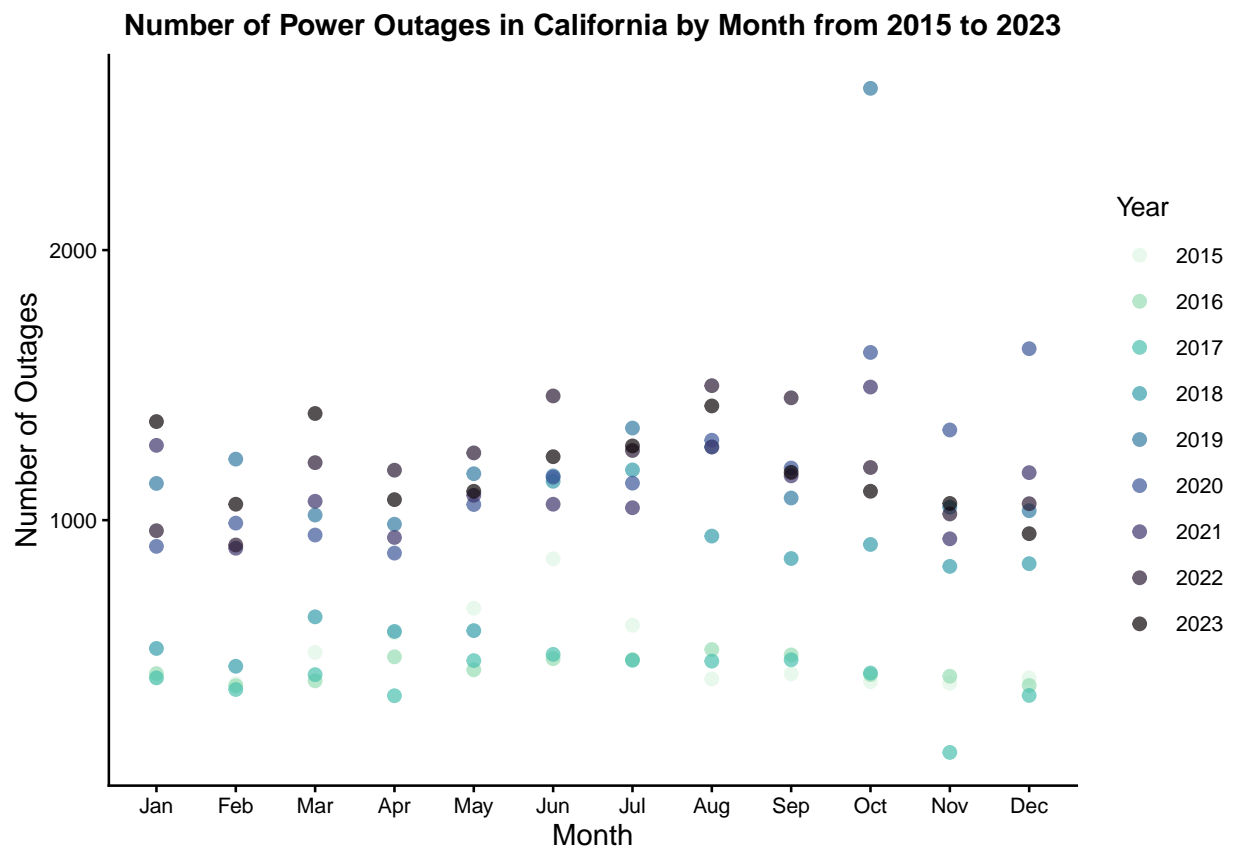


Figure 2: Monthly plot of power outages in California from 2015 to 2023.

3.0.2 Florida

In Florida, the number of outages shows a slight upward trend over the past decade (Figure 3). On a monthly scale, outages consistently rise during the summer months, indicating a seasonal pattern likely driven by weather conditions or increased energy demand (Figure 4). However, when comparing month-to-month patterns across years, no clear year-to-year monthly trend emerges.

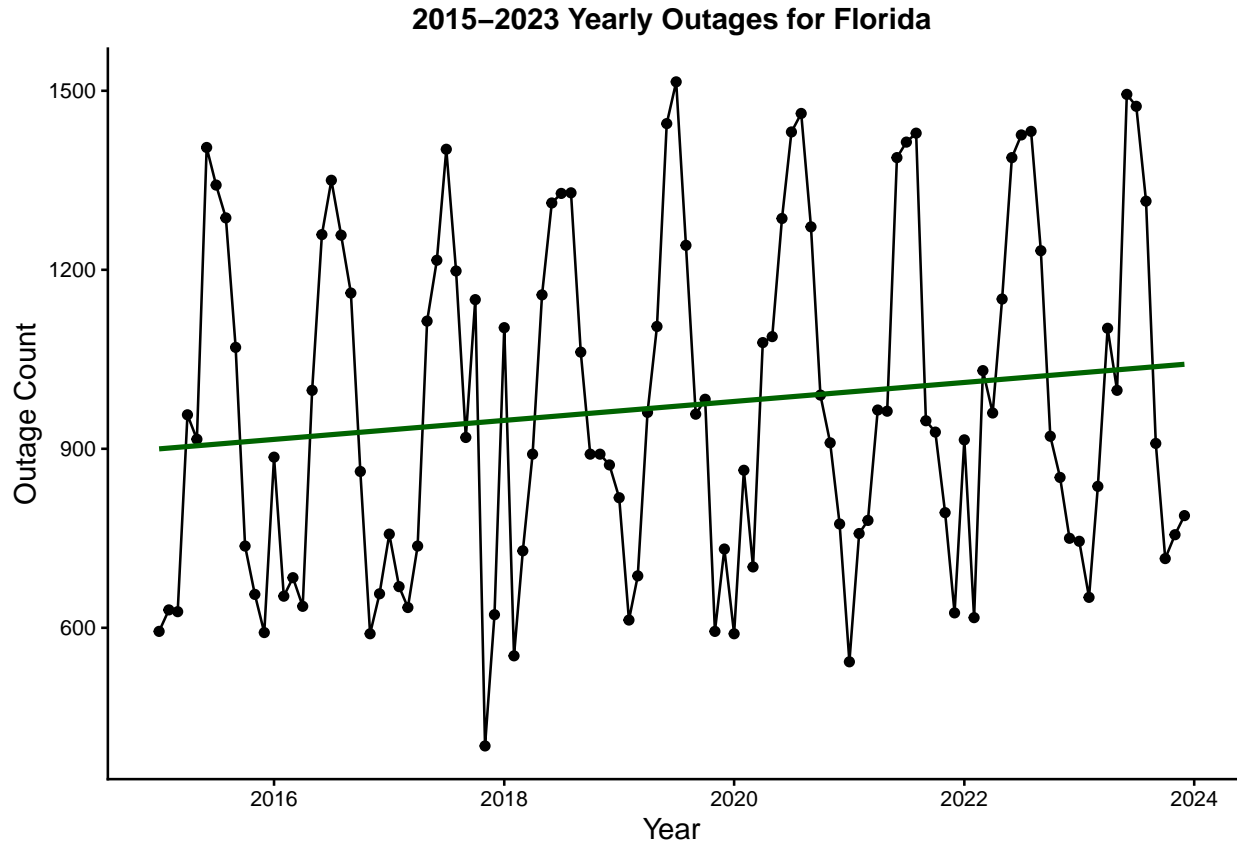


Figure 3: Yearly plot of power outages in Florida from 2015 to 2023.

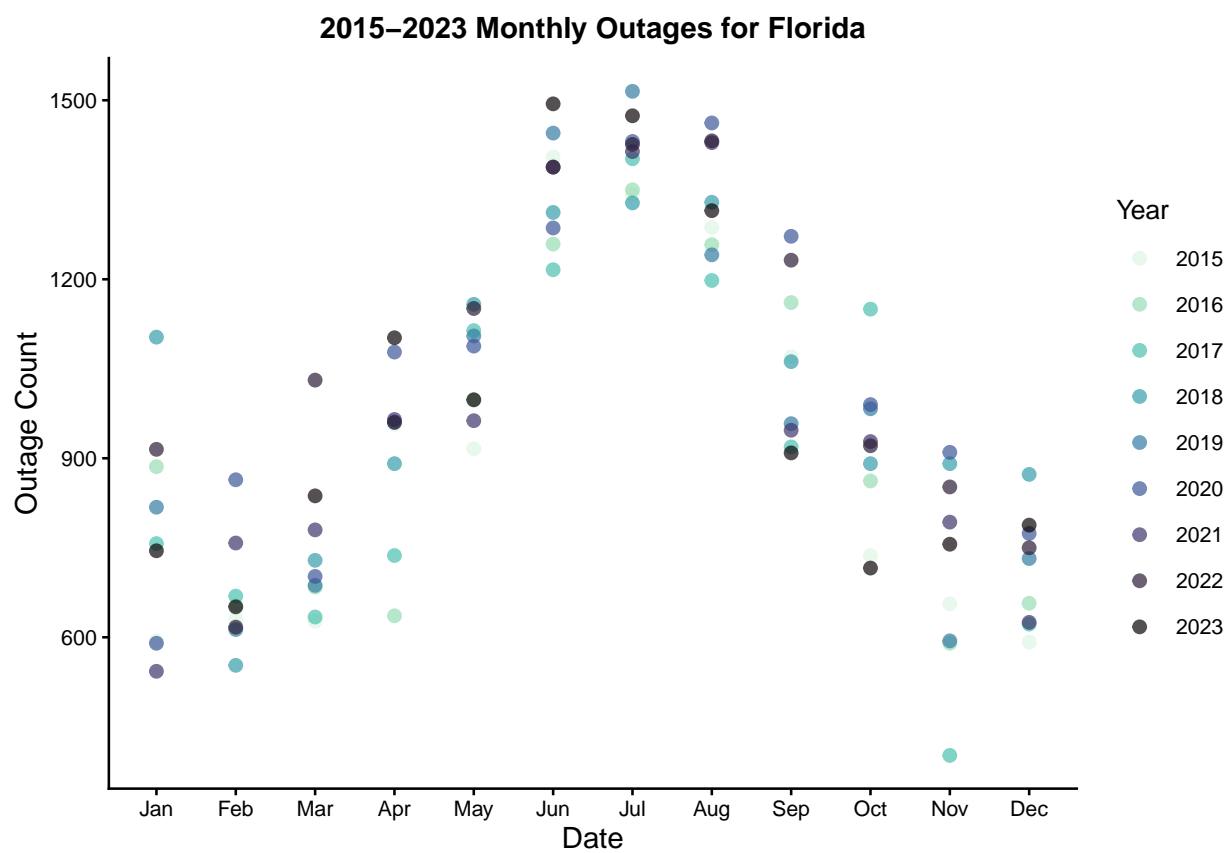


Figure 4: Monthly plot of power outages in Florida from 2015 to 2023.

3.0.3 Pennsylvania

From the initial data exploration of Pennsylvania, it is clear that power outages have gradually increased over the past decade (Figure 5). On a monthly basis, there is a noticeable rise in outages during the summer months, suggesting a seasonal pattern likely related to weather or energy demand (Figure 6). Overall, the data points to both long-term growth in the number of outages and predictable seasonal fluctuations.

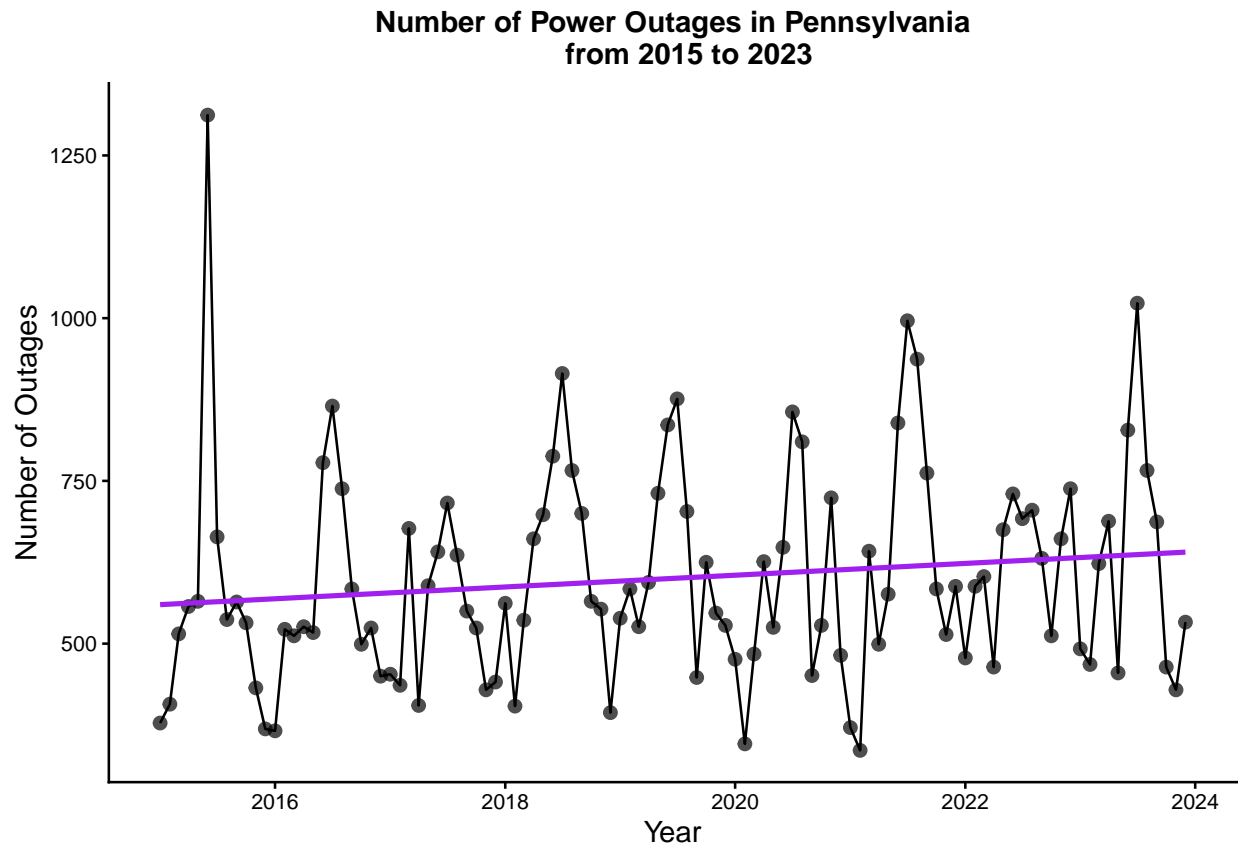


Figure 5: Yearly plot of power outages in Pennsylvania from 2015 to 2023.

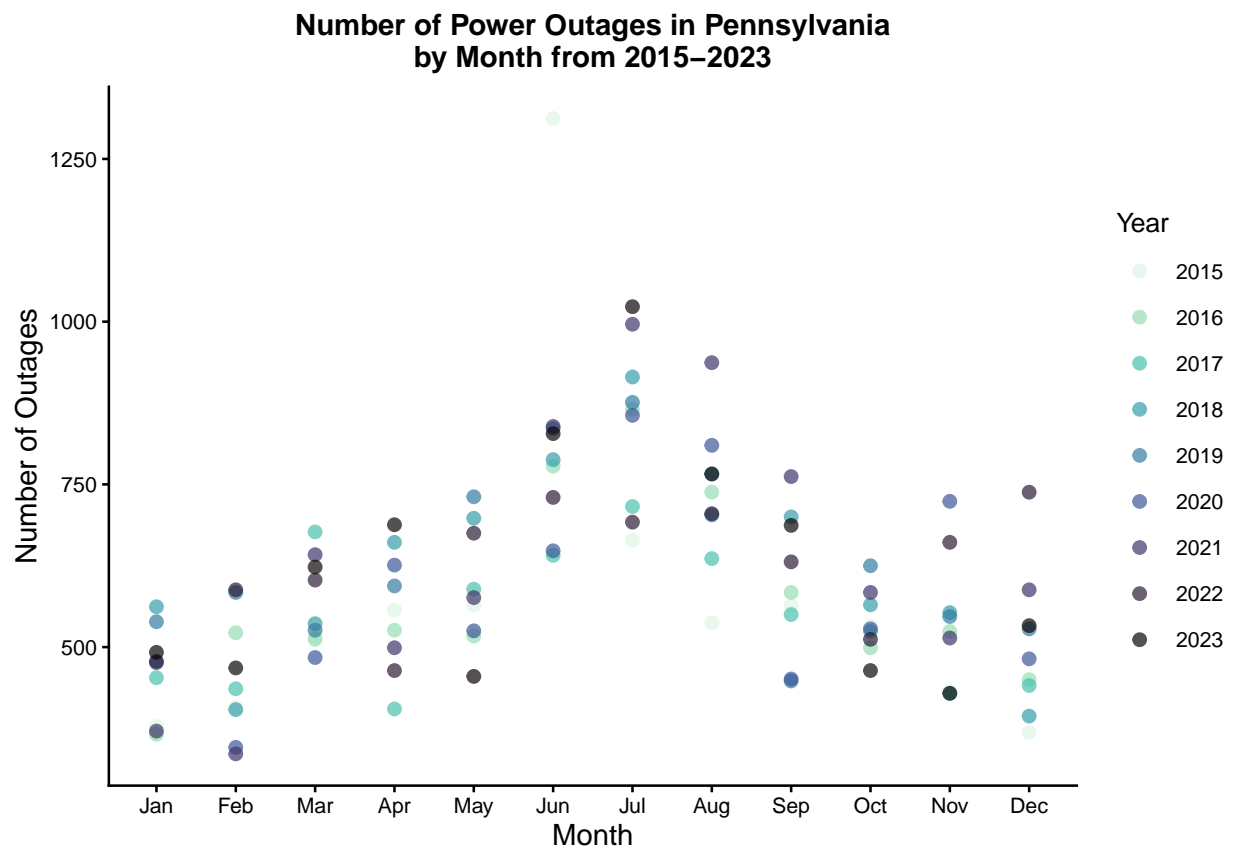


Figure 6: Monthly plot of power outages in Pennsylvania from 2015-2023.

3.0.4 Texas

From this yearly plot of power outages in Texas from 2015 to 2023, we can observe a general increasing pattern of power outages between this time period, aside from the temporary drop between 2016-2018 (Figure 7). By looking at this graph, we are also observing a pattern of spikes around May or the early summer months and could indicate a seasonal pattern (Figure 8).

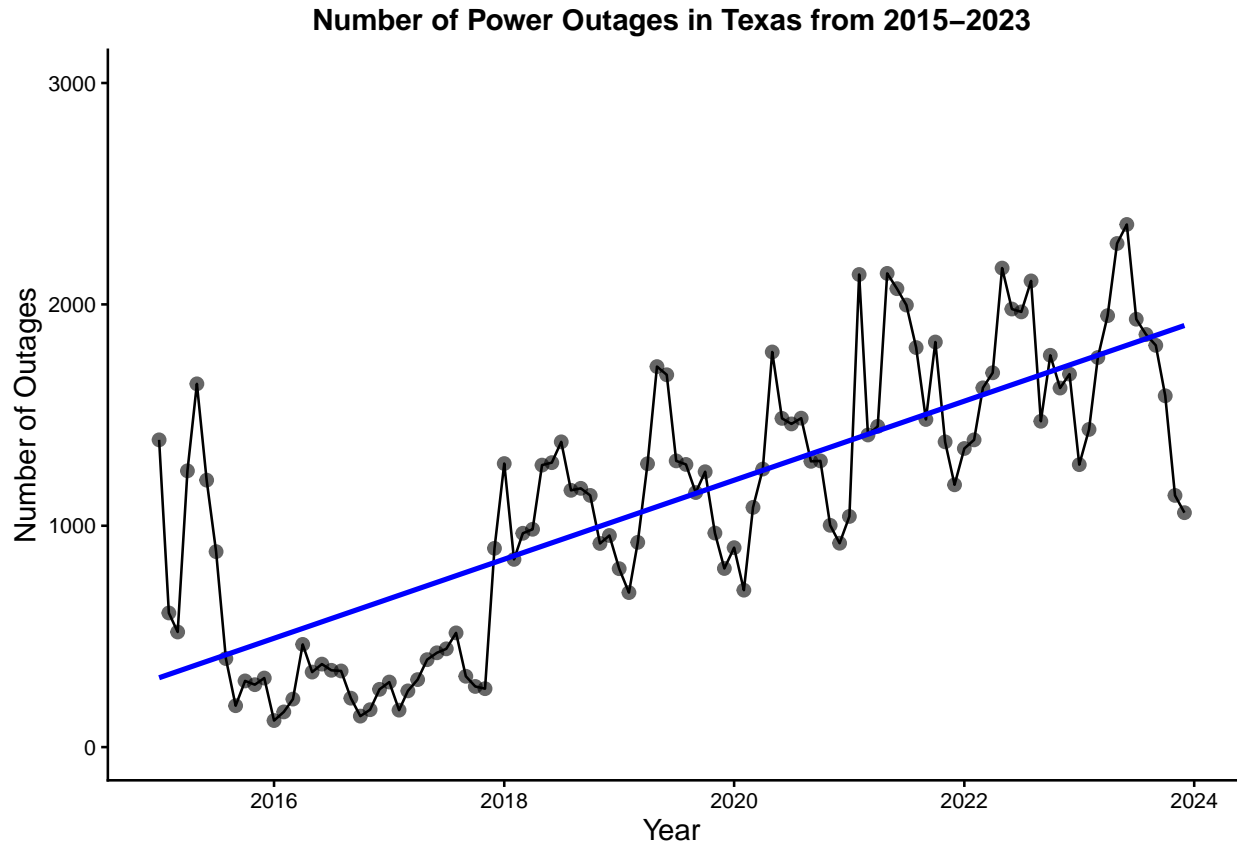


Figure 7: Yearly plot of power outages in Texas from 2015-2023.

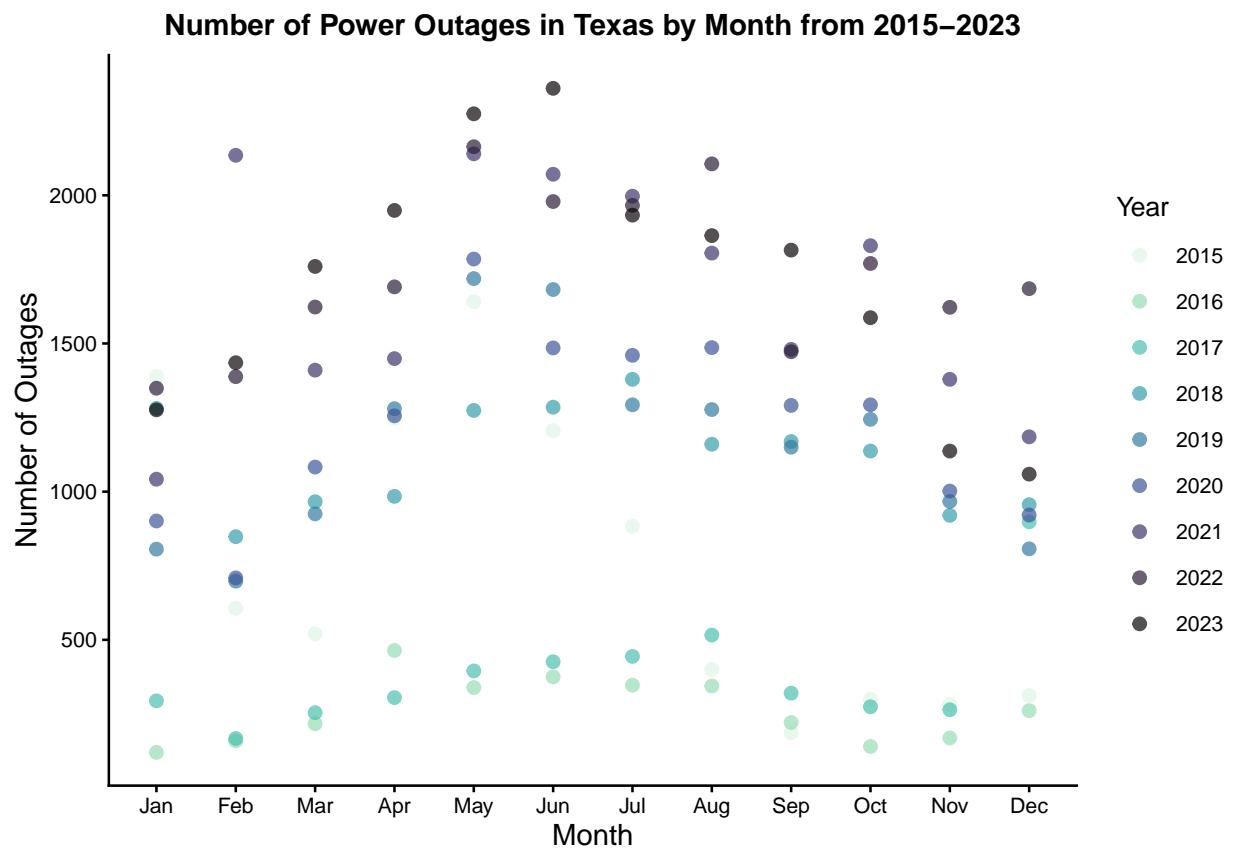


Figure 8: Monthly plot of power outages in Texas from 2015 to 2023.

4 Analysis

The power outage datasets for each state were analyzed by creating time series objects of the power outage count data. The time series objects were decomposed to separate the trend, seasonality, and remainder. New data frames were created with these three time series components. A non-seasonal power outage count component was created by subtracting the seasonal component from the trend and remainder components. This nonseasonal components was graphed along with the observed power outage count to display the visual fit of the trend. Mann-Kendall tests were performed on the nonseasonal component to statistically analyze the trends, providing the trend direction and statistical significance.

The seasonal component was isolated and graphed by grouping the yearly values (2015-2023) by month. This shows how the seasonal component changes over the year, allowing for the months with a high count of power outages to be identified. To statistically analyze the seasonality of power outages, a one-way ANOVA test was performed to see if power outage counts varied significantly across months.

To investigate the severity of power outages, time series objects were created of the customer weighted hours data. The customer weighted hours' time series objects were also decomposed to separate the trend, seasonality, and remainder of each dataset. A non-seasonal power outage count component was created by subtracting the seasonal component from the trend and remainder components. This nonseasonal components was graphed along with the observed customer weighted hours to display the visual fit of the trend. Mann-Kendall tests were performed on the nonseasonal component to statistically analyze the trends, providing the trend direction and statistical significance.

4.1 Question 1: How has the number of power outages changed over time?

4.1.1 California

Figure 9 displays the decomposed time series of the number of power outages in California from 2015 to 2023. There appears to be clear seasonal trend, which is analyzed further in Section 4.2.

A MannKendall non-seasonal trend analysis was applied to the California power outage count dataset with the seasonal component removed, a significant overall increase in power outages over time is observed (MannKendall; $\tau = 5.437e-01$, $p < 2.2e-16$). This supports the hypothesis that the number of power outages are increasing. Figure 10 visualizes the trend compared to the observed number of power outages in California. The red line represents the overall increasing trend.

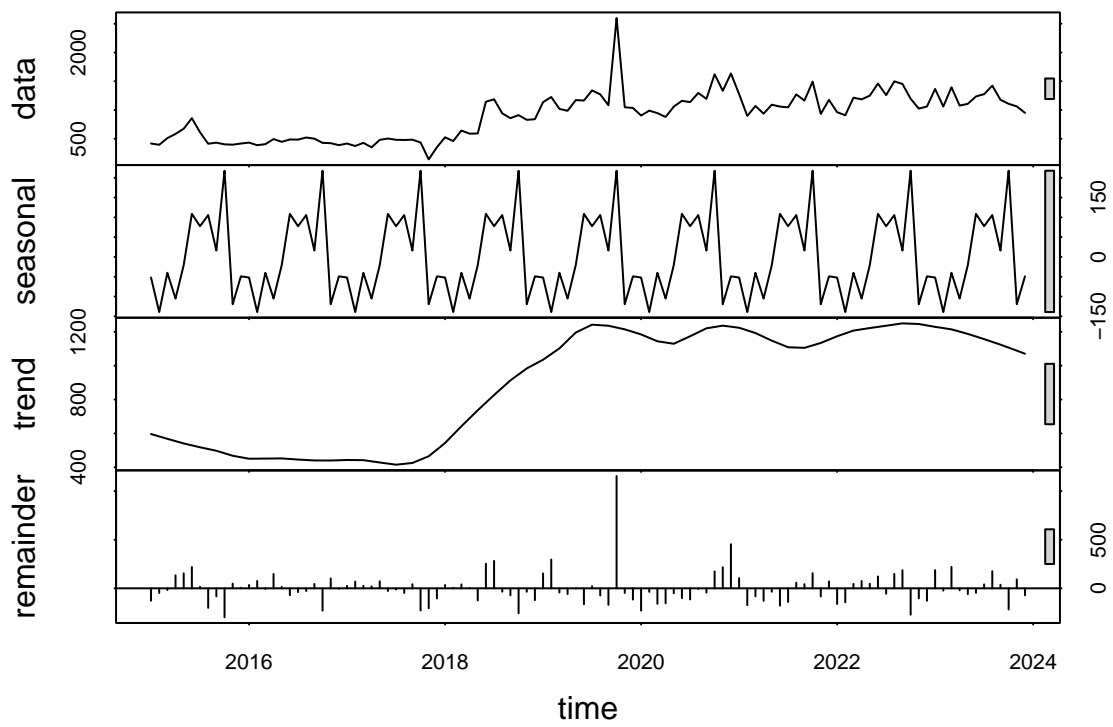


Figure 9: Decomposed components of the California power outage count time series.

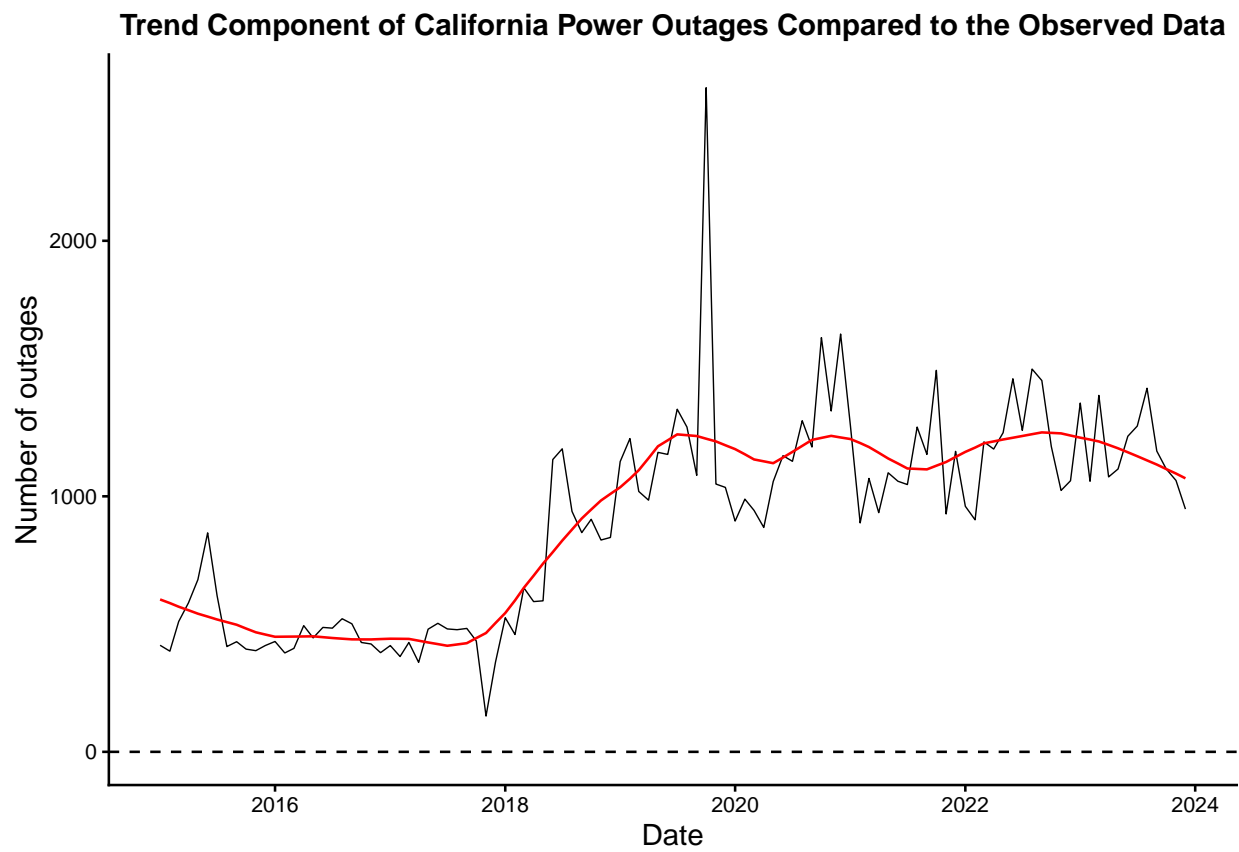


Figure 10: Trend versus observation of power outages in California (2015-2023).

4.1.2 Florida

Figure 11 shows the time series analysis for outage occurrences across Florida from 2015 to 2023. While a clear pattern of seasonality is evident within the time series, applying a non-seasonal Mann-Kendall test will determine if outage count across the years has a significant trend. The results of the test confirm that there is a statistically significant increase in outages in Florida ($\tau = 2.426865e-01$, $p = 0.0001997$), independent from seasonality changes. Figure 12 shows the increasing trend.

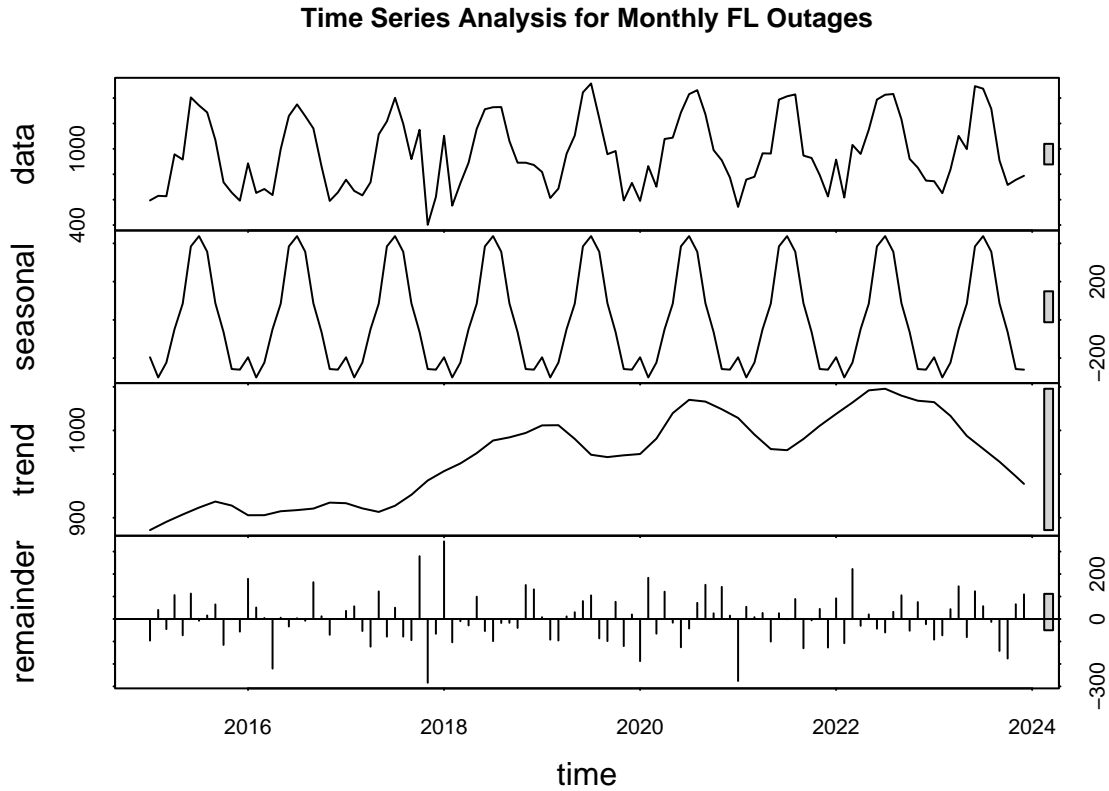


Figure 11: Decomposed components of the Florida power outage count time series.

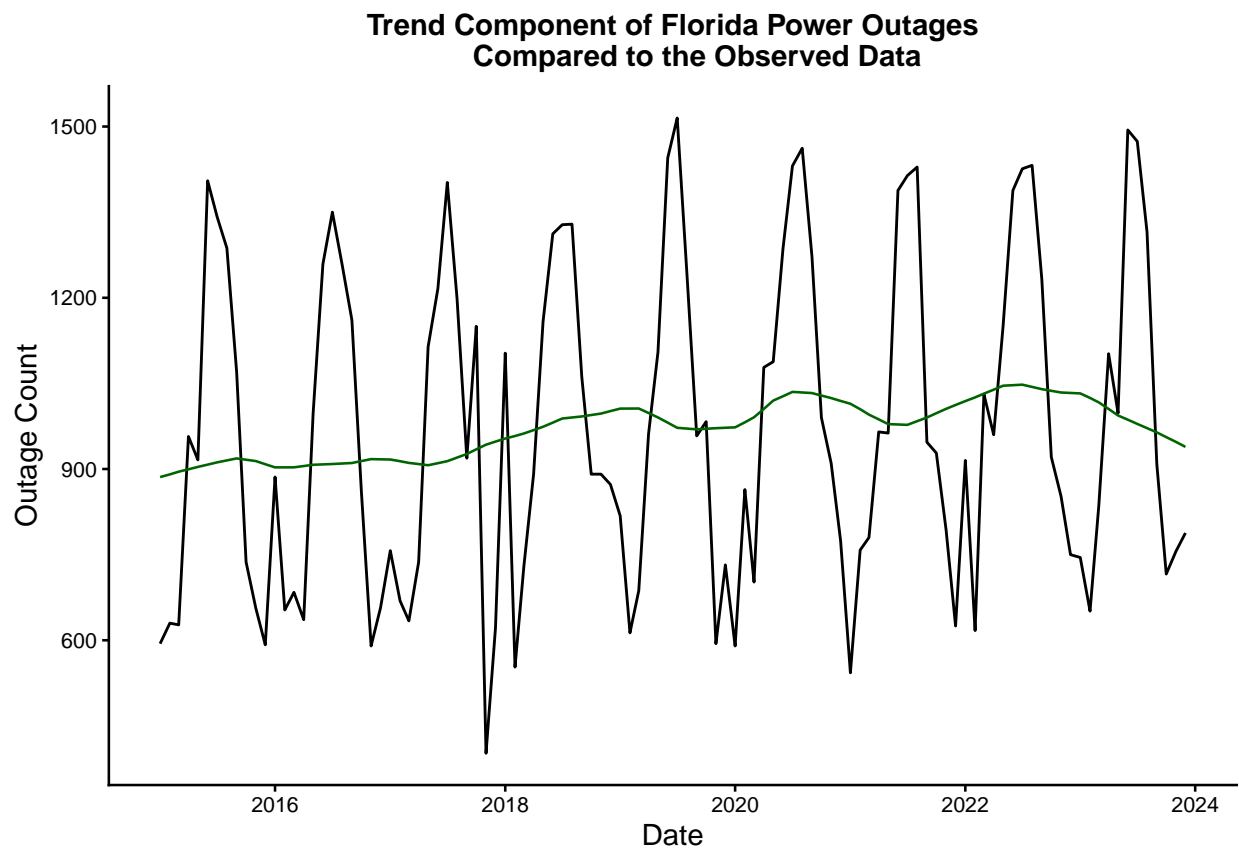


Figure 12: Trend versus observation of power outages in Florida (2015-2023)

4.1.3 Pennsylvania

After removing the seasonal component from the Pennsylvania outage time series, the Mann–Kendall trend test revealed a significant positive trend ($z = 3.02$, $n = 108$, $p = 0.002$), indicating that the number of outage has increased slightly from 2015 to 2023. This result supports the hypothesis that outages have become more common during this time, independent of seasonal patterns. The decomposed time-series visualization shows this trend clearly, revealing that even after accounting for monthly fluctuations, the long-term component continues to rise (Figure 13). Figure 14 reveals the trend of the power outages with the seasonality element removed compared to the observed data.

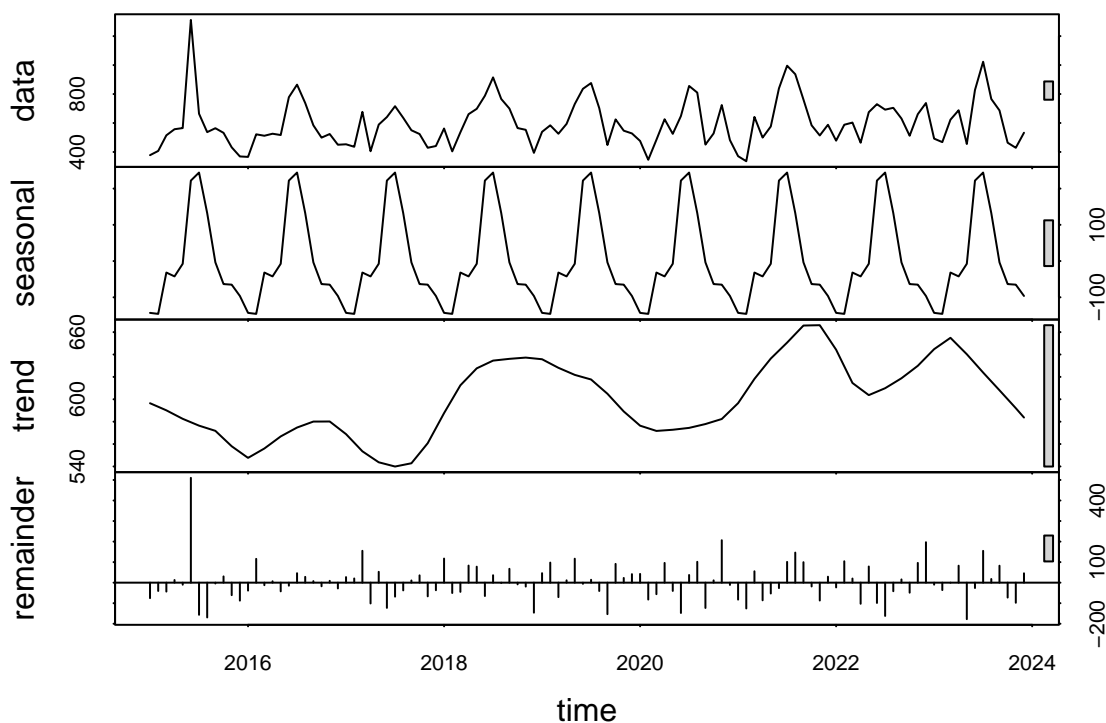


Figure 13: Decomposed components of the Pennsylvania power outage count time series.

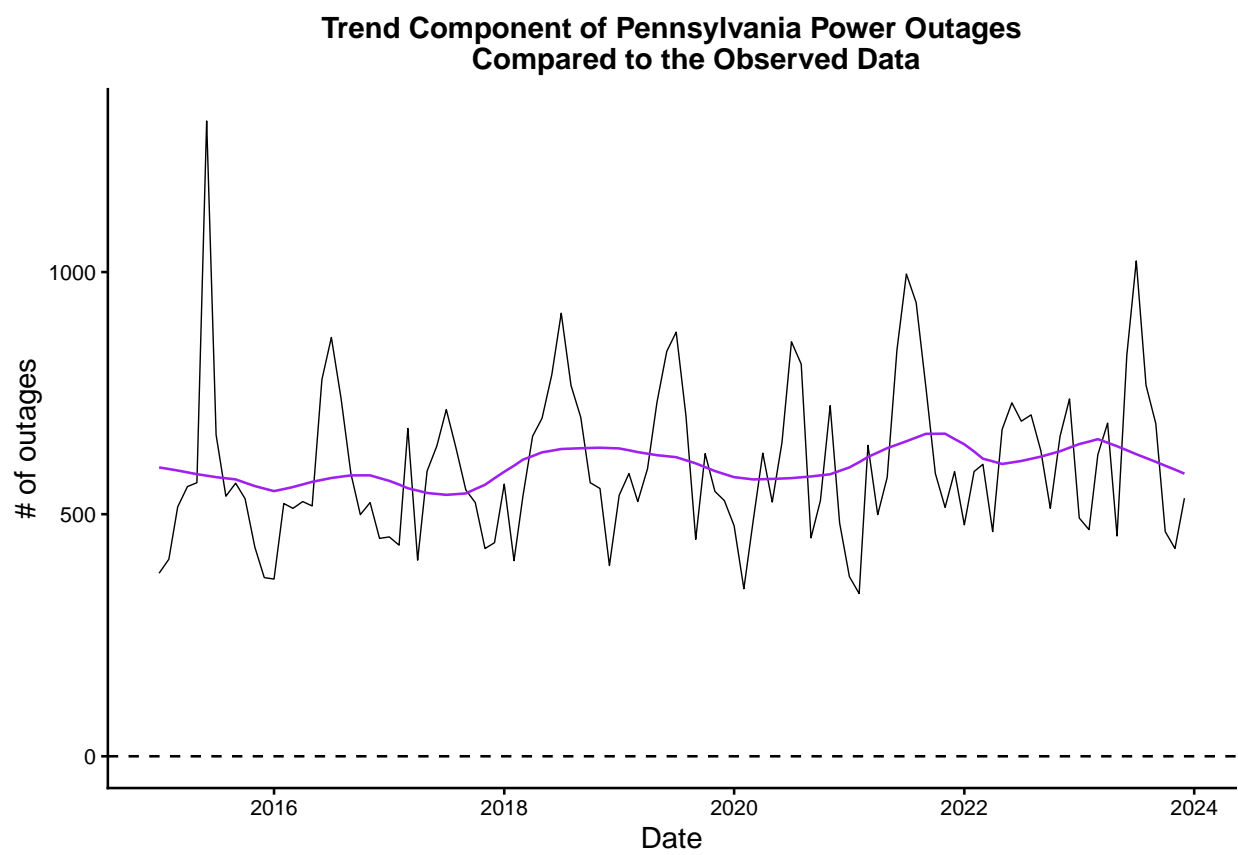


Figure 14: Trend versus observation of power outages in Pennsylvania (2015-2023).

4.1.4 Texas

Figure 15 shows the decomposed components of the Texas power outage count time series from 2015–2023. With a very small p-value ($2.22\text{e-}16$), the result indicates an upward trend, and it is statistically significant. After removing the seasonal component and rerunning the test, the Mann–Kendall results ($z = 9.9423$, $n = 108$, $\text{p-value} < 2.2\text{e-}16$) still show a highly significant positive trend. This confirms our earlier visualization that the increase in outage counts persists even after accounting for the influence of seasonal weather patterns. Figure 16 shows the overall trend without seasonality of power outages in Texas compared to the observed data.

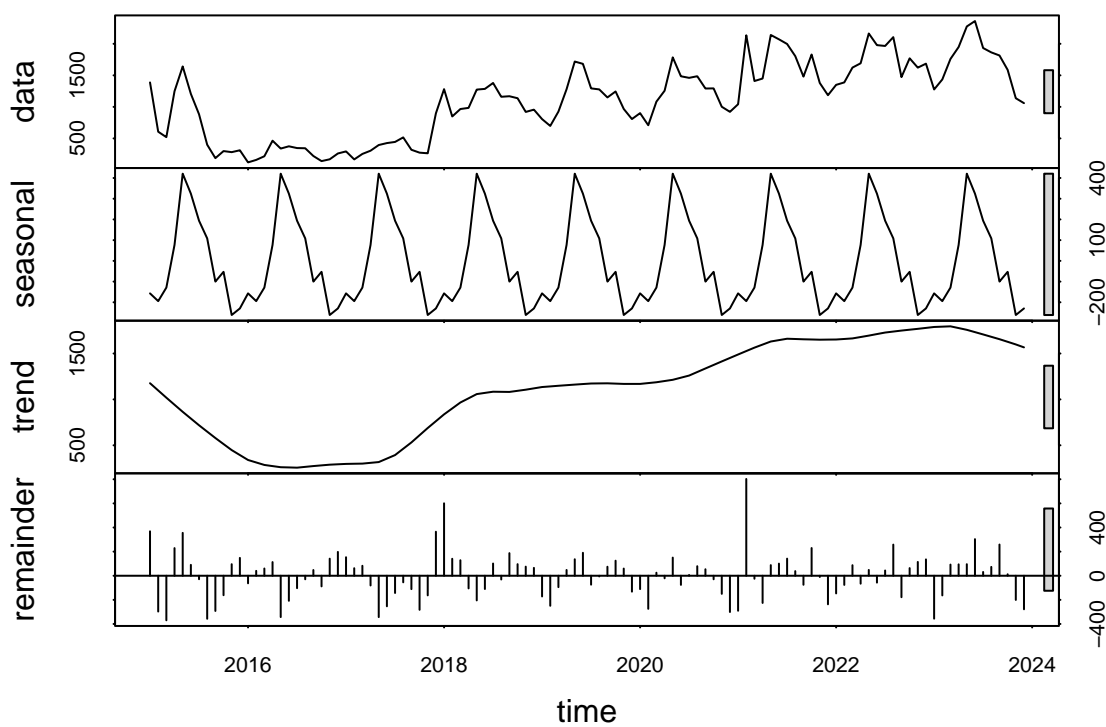


Figure 15: Decomposed components of the Texas power outage count time series.

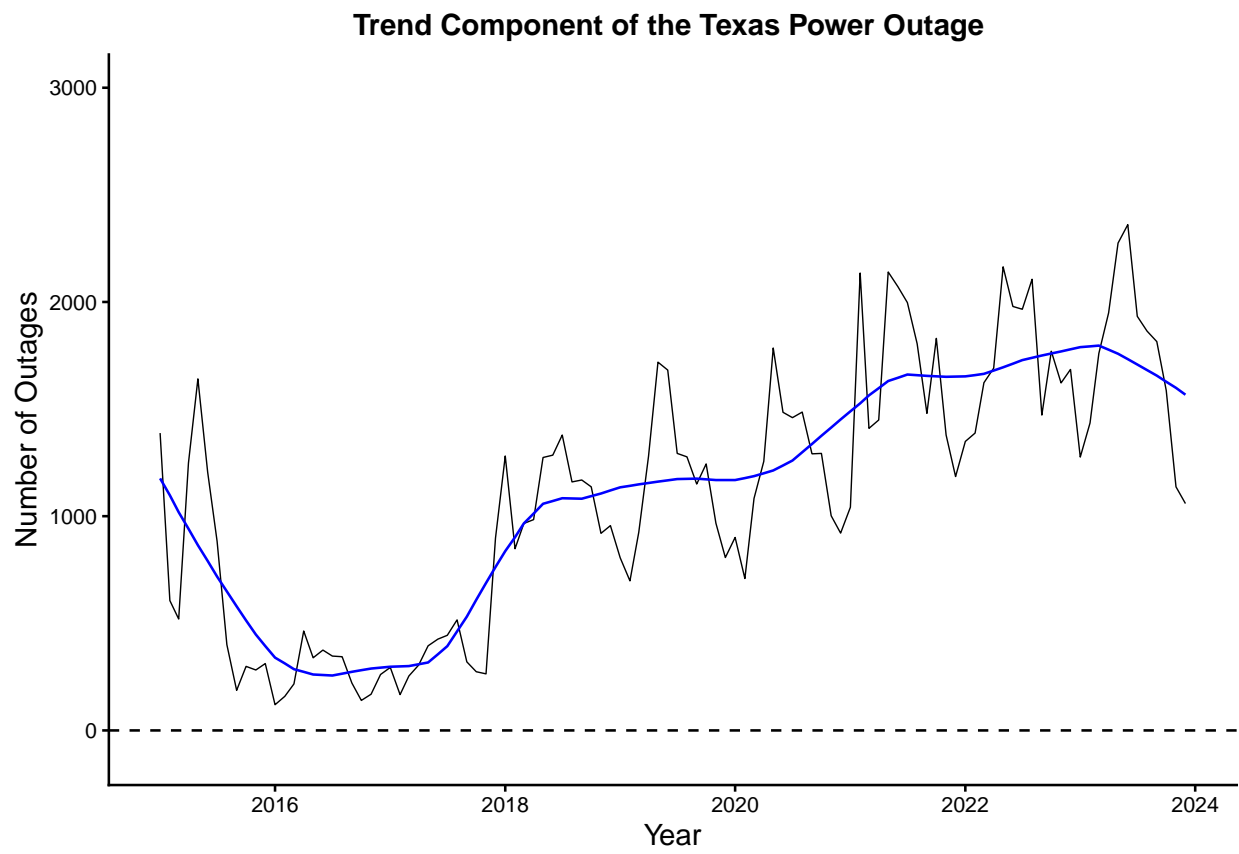


Figure 16: Trend versus observation of power outages in Texas (2015-2023).

4.1.5 Comparison between States

Figure 17 visualizes each state's non-seasonal power outage time series trend. Red represents California, green is Florida, purple is Pennsylvania, and blue is Texas. All states are seeing an increasing trend of power outages, this confirmed both visually and through each state's Mann–Kendall results. These results supports our first hypothesis that long-term pressures, such as extreme weather event, may be contributing to increases in the number of power outages. California and Texas are experiencing the greatest increase, while Pennsylvania and Florida are experiencing more gradual increases in comparison. Towards the end of the time period, California and Texas also overall have more power outages than Florida and Pennsylvania, with Pennsylvania seeing overall the lowest amount of power outages.

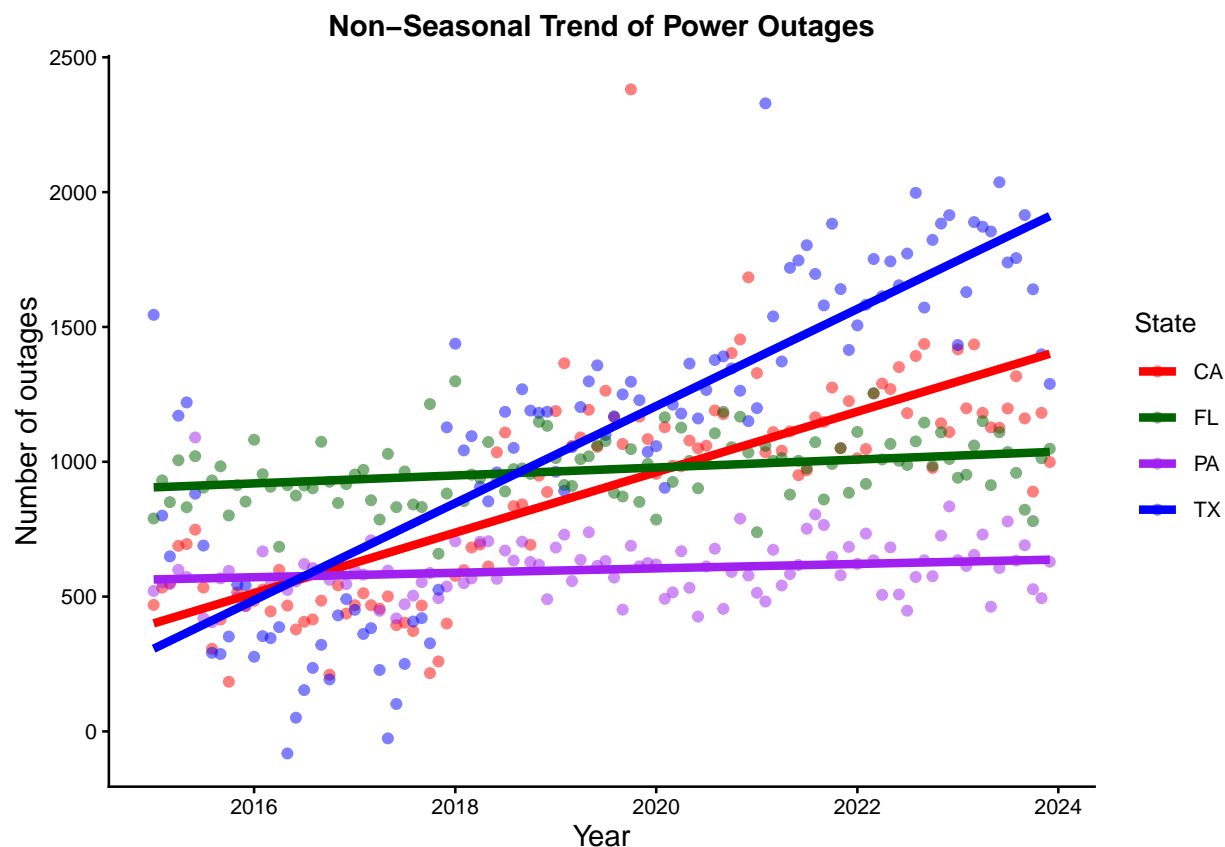


Figure 17: Non-seasonal trend of power outages in California, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

4.2 Question 2: Is there a seasonal trend? Are certain months more prone to outages?

4.2.1 California

Figure 9 displays a clear seasonal pattern in the decomposed time series of the number of power outages in California. The seasonal component was isolated and grouped by year to show the seasonal cycle of power outages in California in Figure 18. The seasonal cycle highlights a potential pattern of power outage counts rising in the summer months, peaking in October. However, despite the visual pattern, the number of power outages in California was not significantly different among the months (ANOVA; $df = 11$, $F = 0.704$, $p < 0.732$). This result does not support the second hypothesis that each state has distinct seasonal power outage patterns related to its dominant weather hazards.

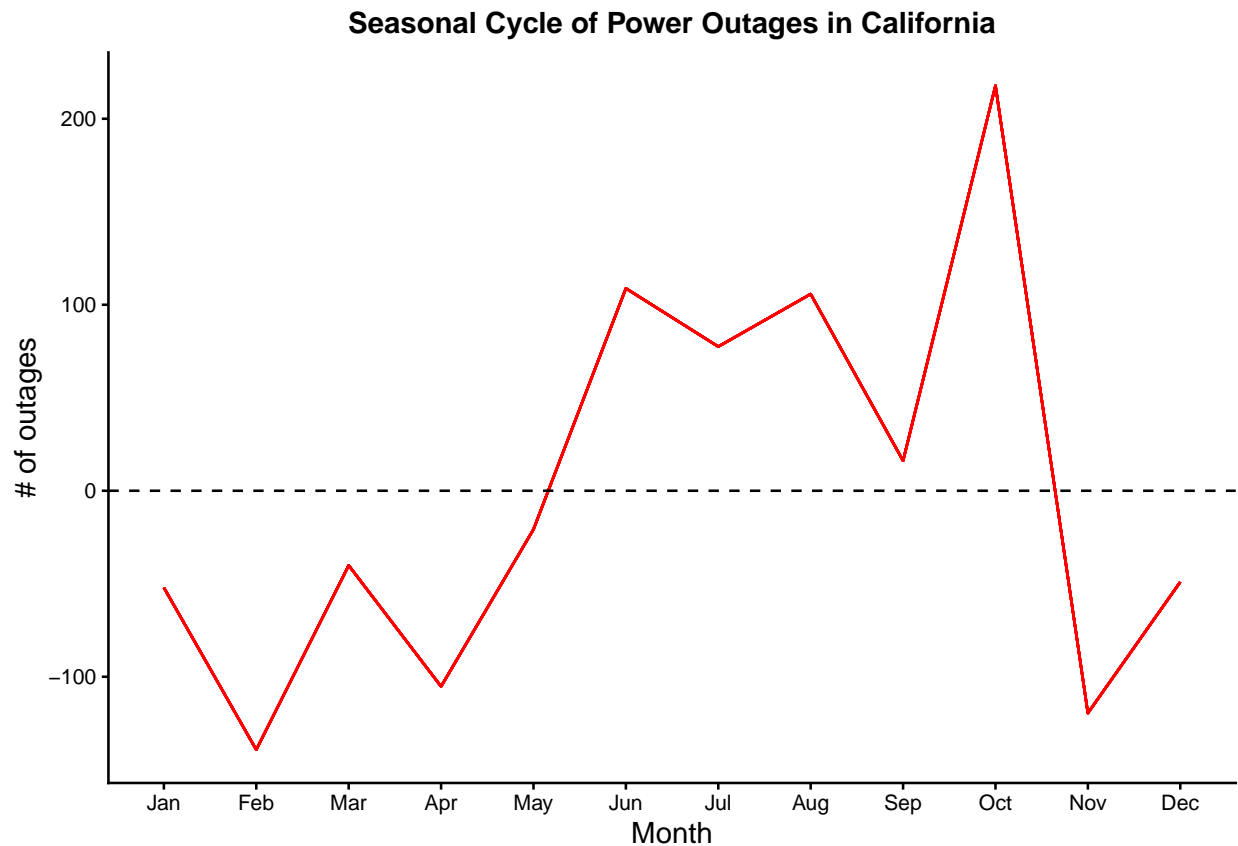


Figure 18: Seasonal component of the California power outage time series analysis where yearly data is grouped by month.

4.2.2 Florida

Results from the time series for outages in FL displayed a pattern of seasonality. To further analyze the strength of that trend, months of every year were aggregated to show a cumulative trend across 2015 to 2023 in Figure 19. A clear normal distribution shows a concentration of outage occurrences in summer months, and a significant decline in winter months. The June to September seasonal peak coincides with the Atlantic Hurricane season. An ANOVA test statistically confirms that outage counts between months vary significantly, following a seasonal trend ($Df = 11$, $F\text{-value} = 43.28$, $p < 2e-16$). This supports the second hypothesis that each state has distinct seasonal power outage patterns related to its dominant weather hazards.

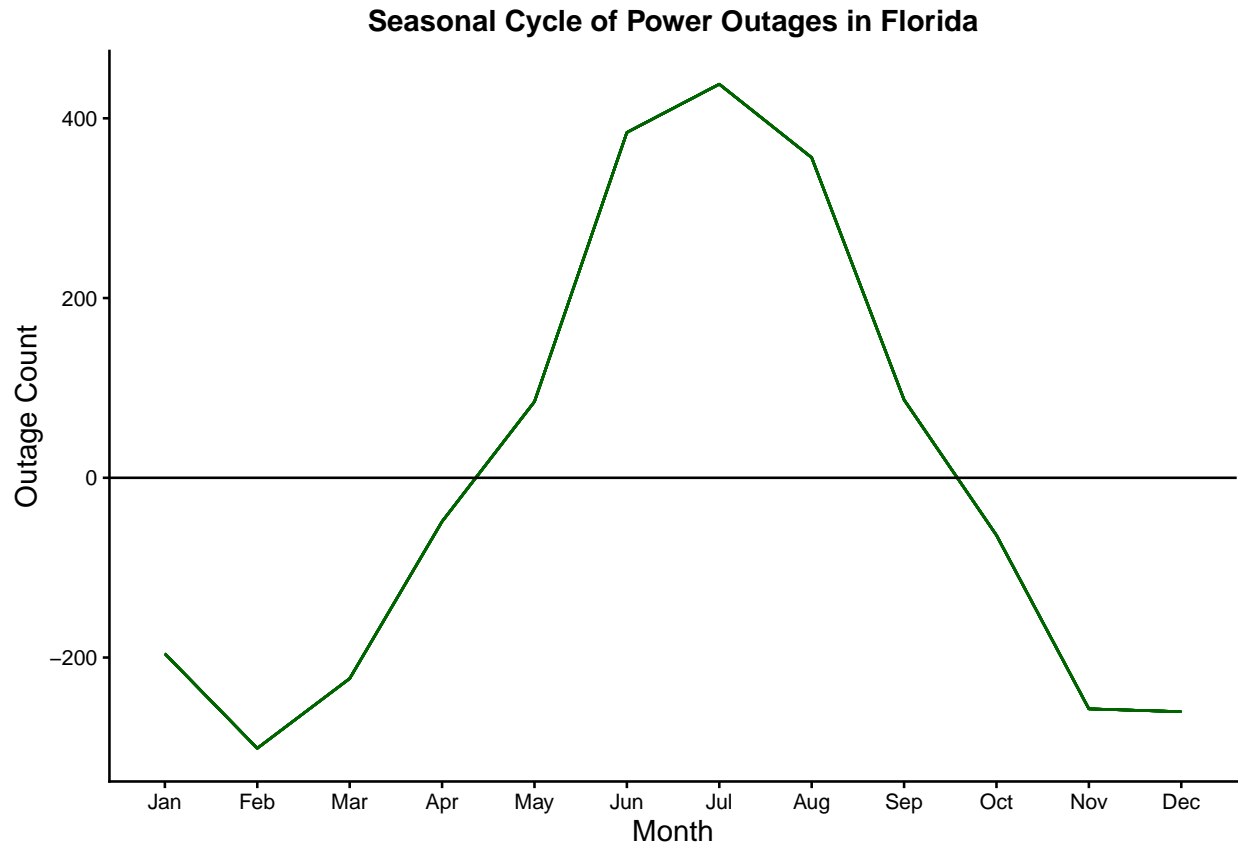


Figure 19: Seasonal component of the Florida power outage time series analysis where yearly data is grouped by month.

4.2.3 Pennsylvania

The Mann–Kendall seasonal trend test for Pennsylvania outage counts indicated a significant seasonal signal in the data ($\tau = 0.20$, $p = 0.009$), demonstrating that outage frequencies vary across months. This finding supports the hypothesis that outages are not evenly distributed throughout the year but instead follow a seasonal pattern. The visualizations further highlight this pattern, showing clear peaks in June, July, and August, when outage counts are highest (Figure 20). Together, these results suggest that summer months consistently experience elevated outage activity, potentially driven by seasonal weather conditions or increased energy demand. The number of outages in Pennsylvania was significantly different among the months (ANOVA; $df = 11$, $F = 12.1$, $p < 7.54e-15$). This supports our alternative hypothesis that outages are not evenly distributed throughout the year but instead follow a seasonal pattern.

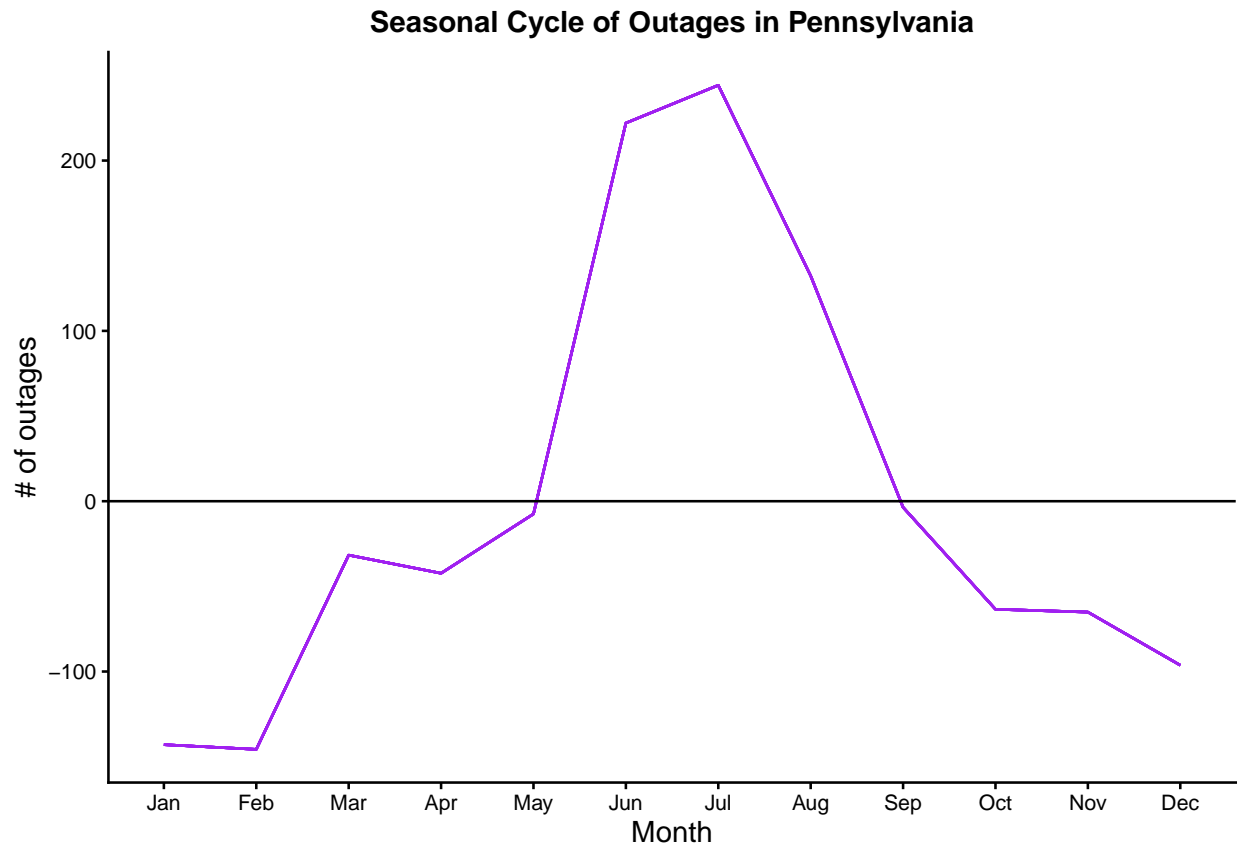


Figure 20: Seasonal component of the Pennsylvania power outage time series analysis where yearly data is grouped by month.

4.2.4 Texas

By observing Figure 21 alone, there's a visible seasonal trend with a sudden peak in May. However, after running an ANOVA test, the results ($df = 11$, $F = 1.215$, $p < 0.288$) shows a high p-value (>0.05). This result suggests that despite the peak in May in Figure 21, the number of Texas power outages during 2015-2023 was not significantly different between different months based on outage counts alone.

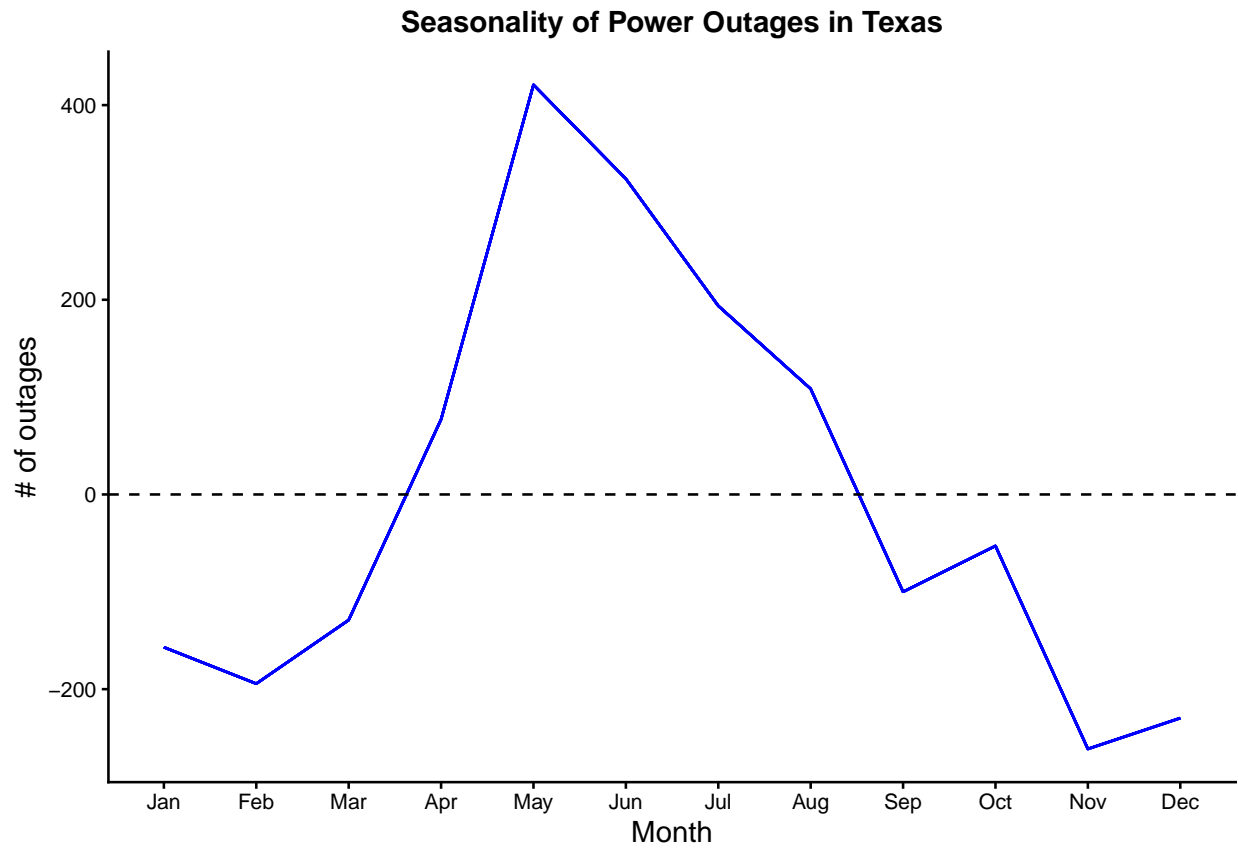


Figure 21: Seasonality component of the Texas power outage count time series analysis where yearly data is grouped by month.

4.2.5 Comparison between States

Figure 22 displays the seasonal cycle for each state. This was created by aggregating the monthly power outage data of every year to show cumulative trend across 2015 to 2023. Florida and Pennsylvania have very similar seasonal cycles, with a concentration of outage occurrences in summer months (peaking in July), and a significant decline in winter months. Texas appears to peak earlier in May. California has a less discernible trend, but there is a peak in October. After running an ANOVA test, California and Texas both have high p-values (CA:p < 0.732, TX:p<0.288), suggesting that there's no seasonal trend in the number of power outages in these two states. For Florida and Pennsylvania, the ANOVA results (FL:p < 2e-16, PA:p < 7.54e-15) suggest a seasonal pattern in power outages [LINK TO CLIMATE??, CA fire season is really all over the place? interesting that TX doesn't have an uptick from winter storms, but it also experiences hurricanes like FL. Summer peak could be largely from heatwaves and hurricanes, generally energy demand peaks in the summer with AC usage]

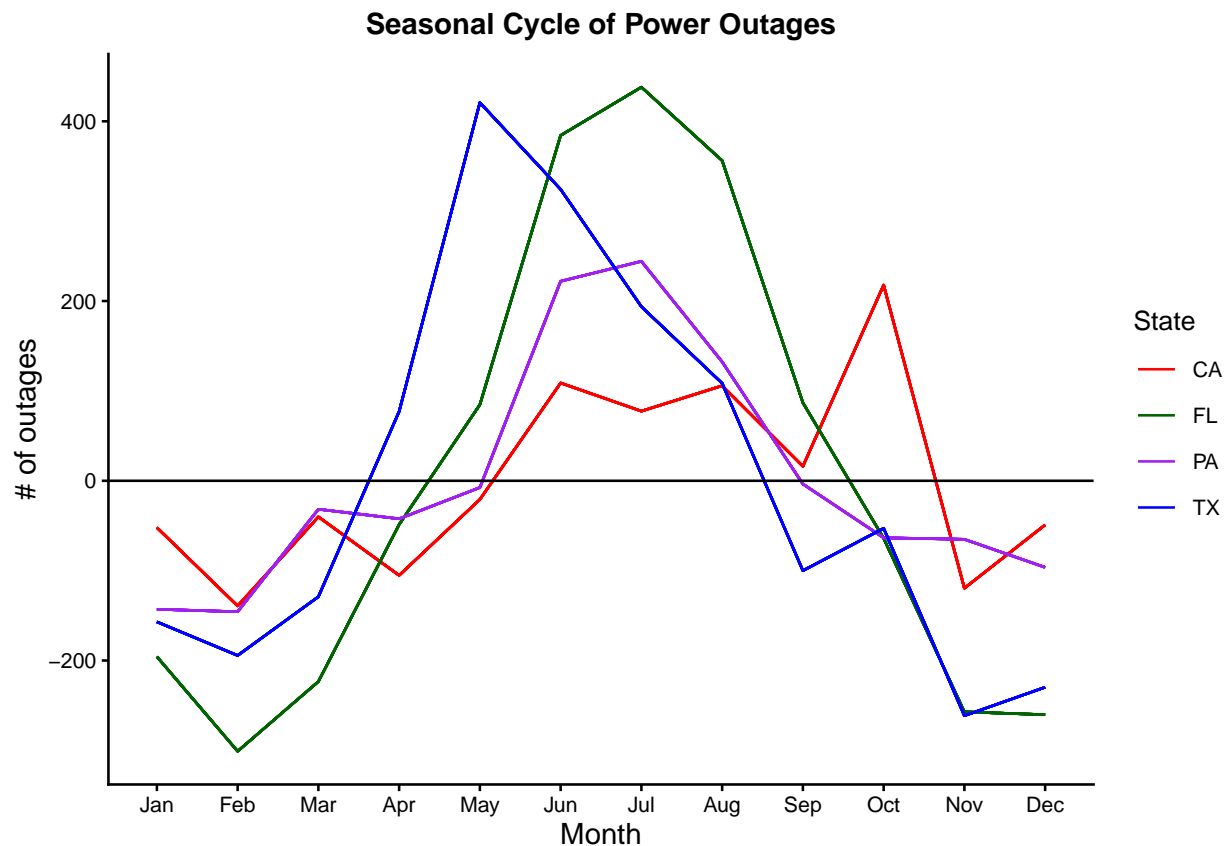


Figure 22: Seasonal cycle of power outages in California, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas (2015-2023 combined).

4.3 Question 3: How has the severity of power outages changed over time?

4.3.1 California

Figure 23 displays the decomposed time series of the California customer weighted hours from 2015 to 2023. After removing the seasonality component the Mann-Kendall trend test suggests that there is a significant increase in the overall customer weighted hours of power outages in California, and thus an increase in the outage severity (MannKendall; tau 3.513e-01 = $p < 7.178e-08$).

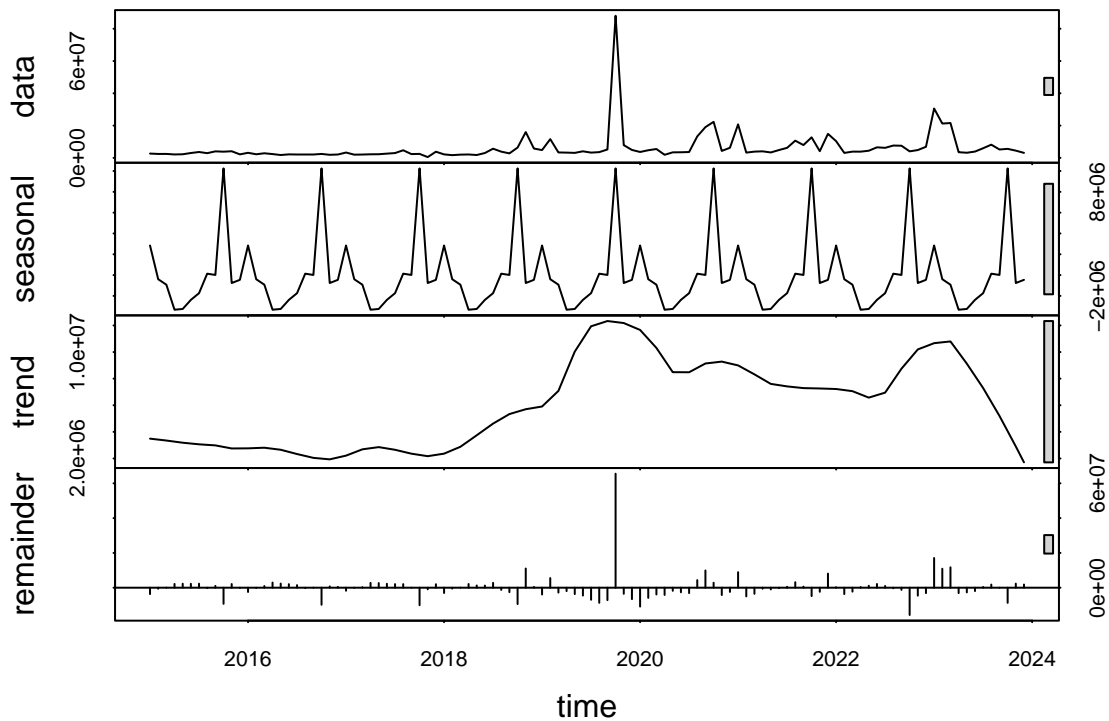


Figure 23: Decomposed trend of customer weighted outage time in California

4.3.2 Florida

Figure 24 visualizes the time series analysis for customer weighted hours in Florida from 2015 to 2023. The results of the Mann-Kendall test on seasonality across the data returned inconsistent tau results suggesting seasonality was not a significant trend. Running a non-seasonal Mann-Kendall test showed far greater significance in an increasing customer weighted duration ($z = 1.2186$, $n = 108$, $p\text{-value} = 0.223$). Unlike the other states, the $p\text{-value}$ for non-seasonal trend is greater than 0.05, suggesting that the customer weighted hours follow more of a seasonal trend than may be present in other states.

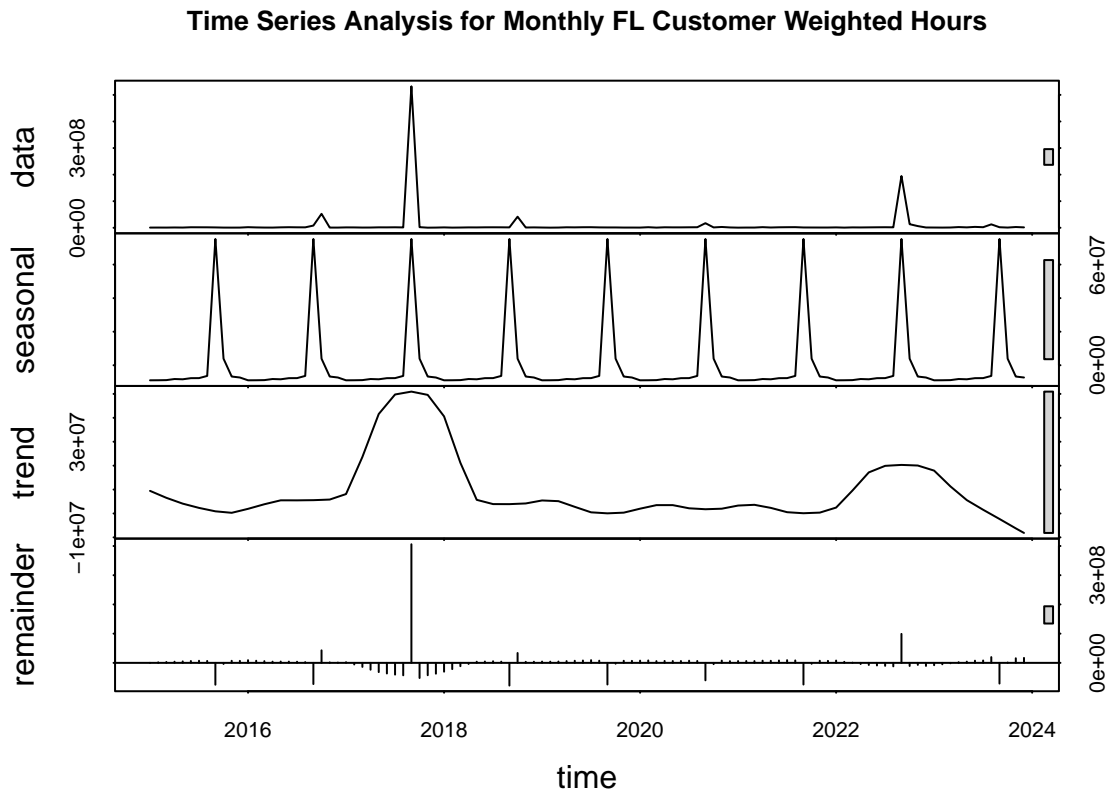


Figure 24: Decomposed trend of customer weighted outage time in Florida.

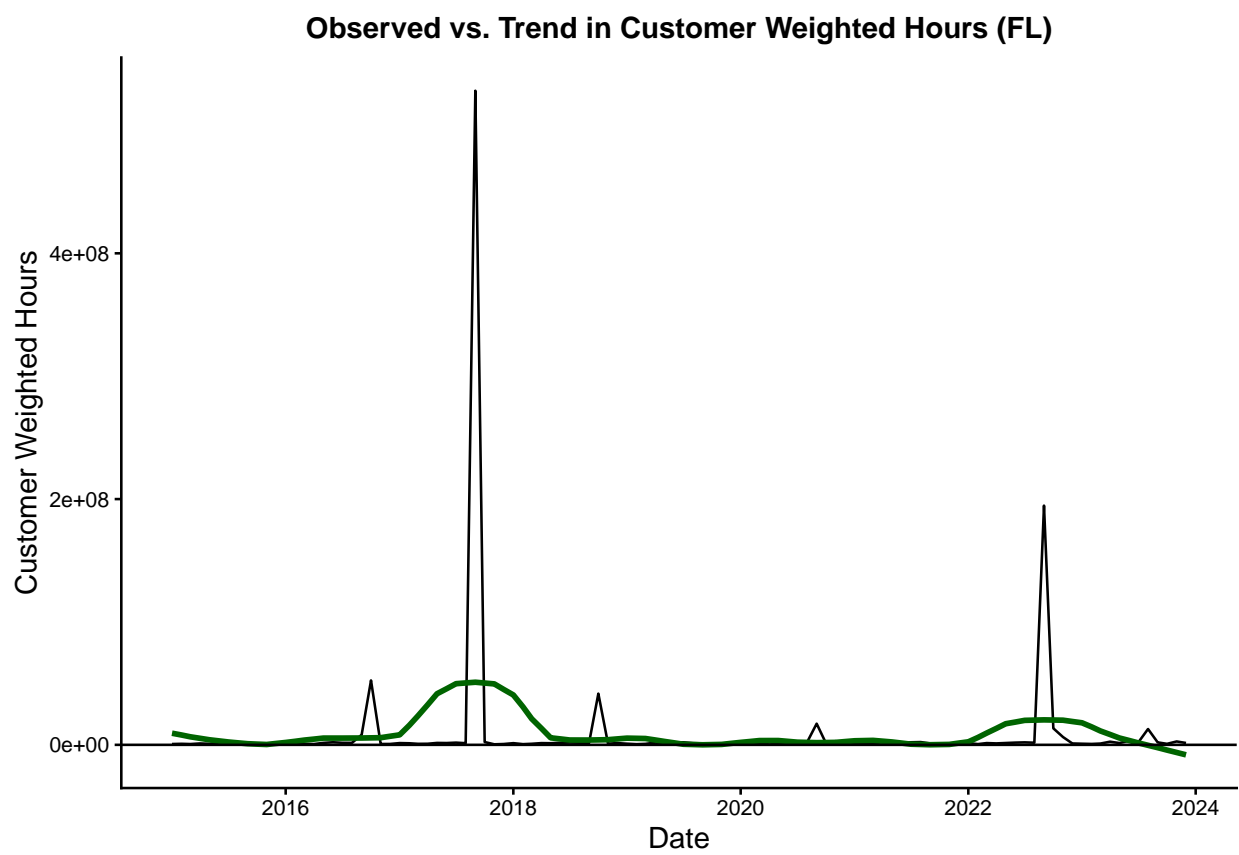


Figure 25: Trend versus observation of customer weighted hours in Florida (2015-2023)

4.3.3 Pennsylvania

For customer-weighted hours, the seasonal test was not statistically significant ($\tau = 0.13$, $p = 0.09$), indicating no consistent monthly pattern in outage impacts on customers. However, after de-seasonalizing, the Mann-Kendall trend test suggested a marginally increasing trend in customer-weighted hours over time ($z = 1.89$, $n = 108$, $p = 0.06$). Overall, these results suggest that while outage counts are increasing and show clear seasonality, the impact on customers is also trending upward, though less strongly (Figure 26). Figure 27 shows that the upward non-seasonal trend is very slight.

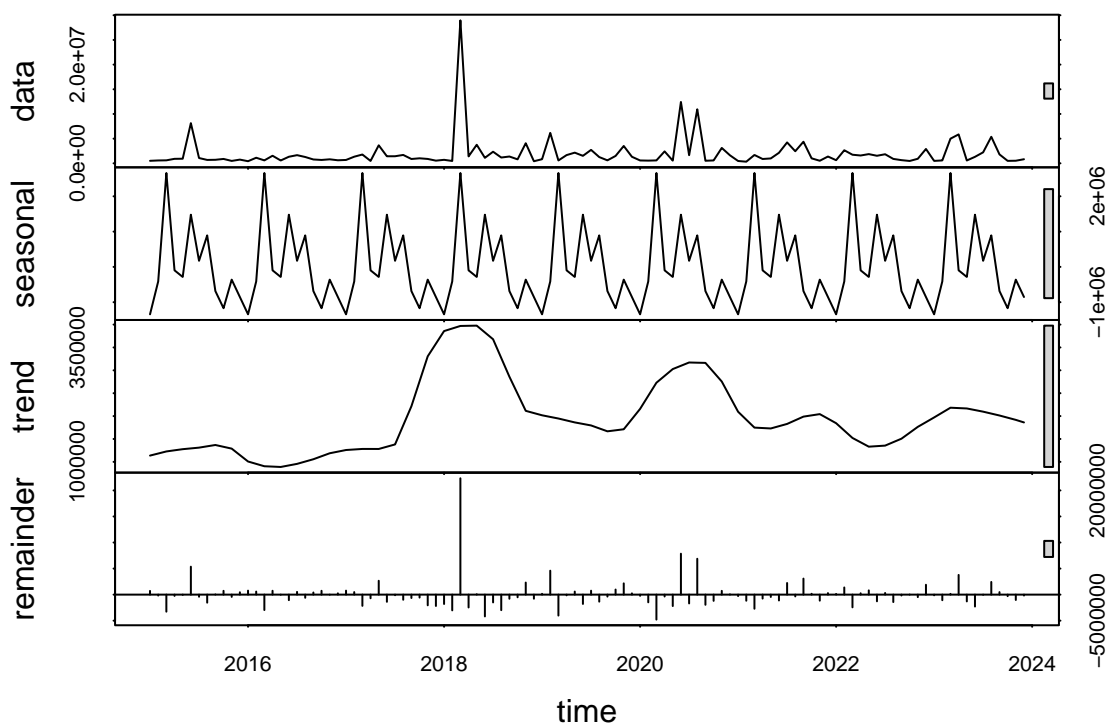


Figure 26: Decomposed trend of customer weighted outage time in Pennsylvania.

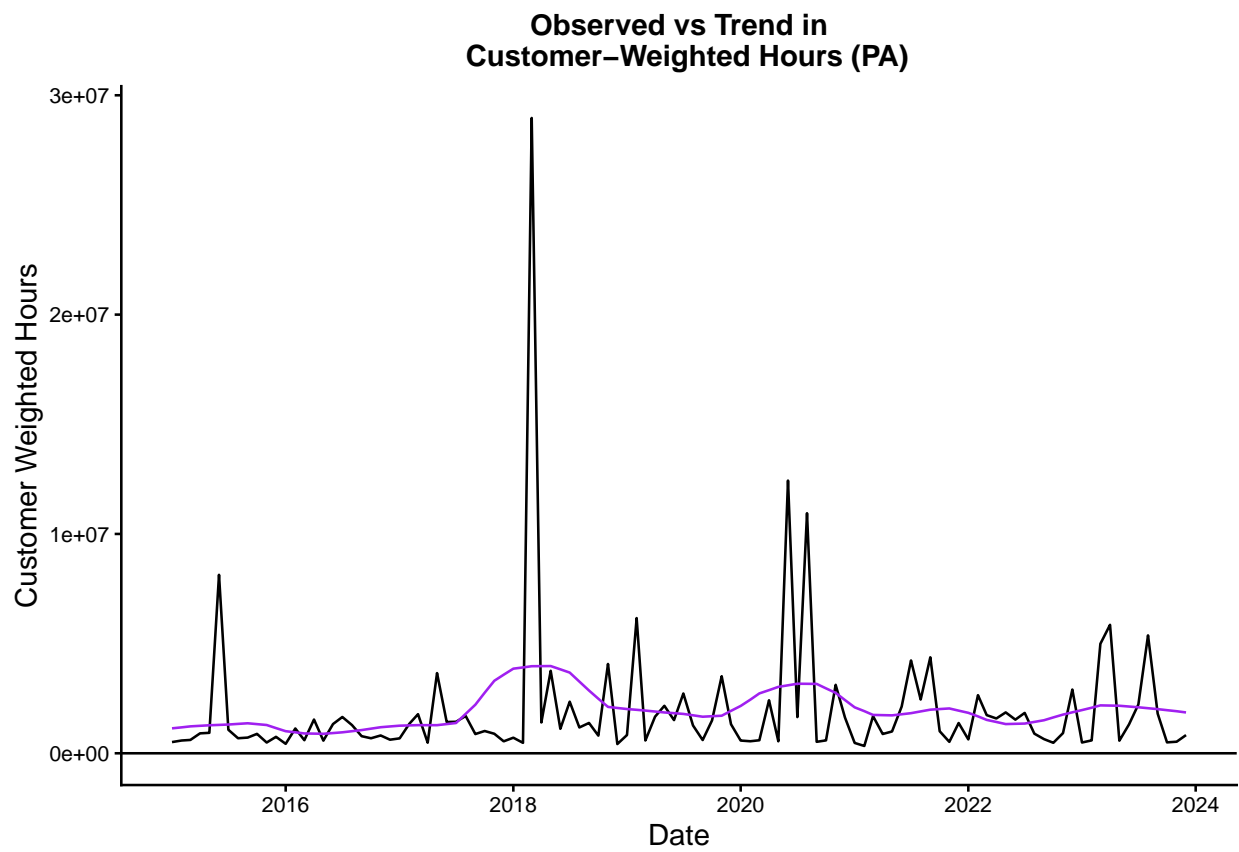


Figure 27: Trend versus observation of customer-weighted hours in PA (2015-2023).

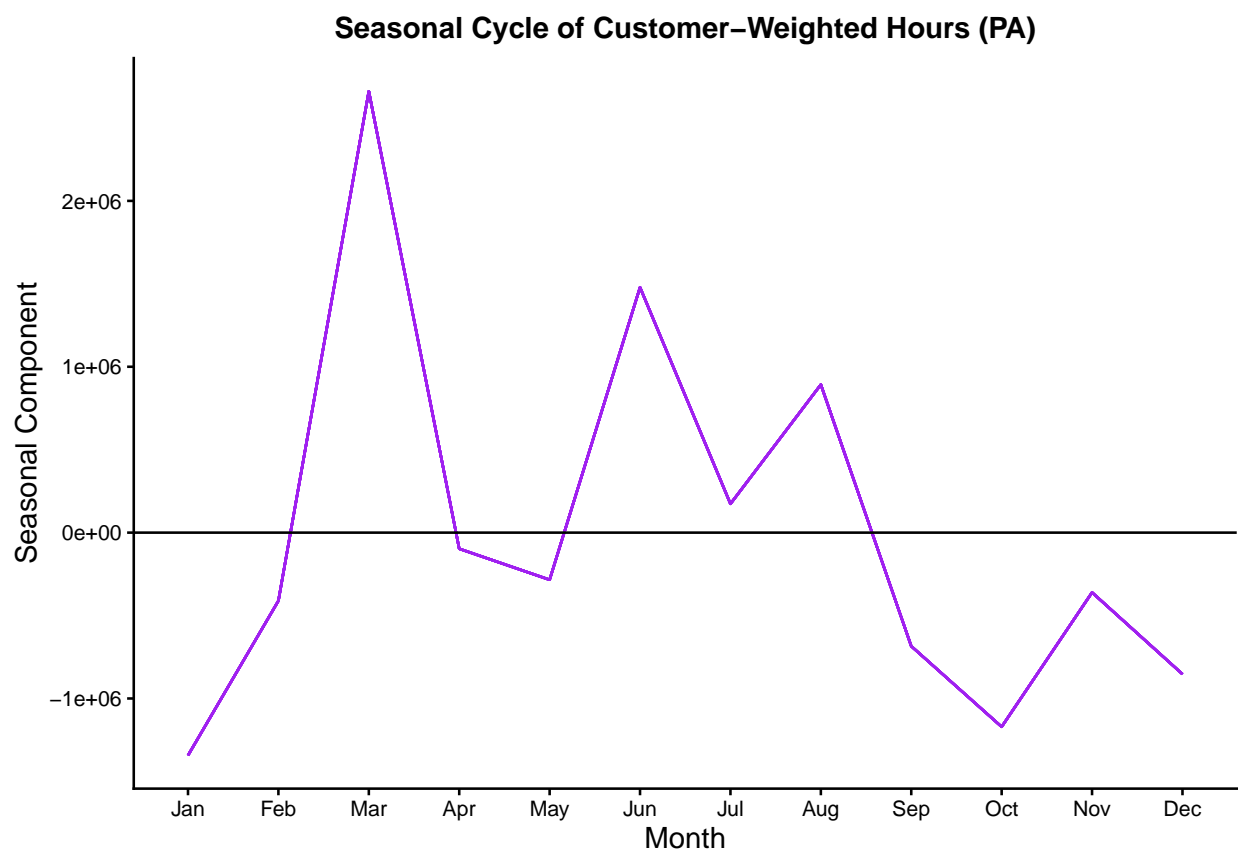


Figure 28: Single year breakdown of seasonal component of customer-weighted hours in PA.

4.3.4 Texas

Figure 29 shows the decomposed components of the Texas customer weighted outage hours time series from 2015–2023. A Mann–Kendall tau of 0.505 indicates a strong positive monotonic trend even in the presence of seasonality. With a very small p-value (5.34×10^{-11}), this upward trend is statistically significant. After removing the seasonal component and rerunning the test, the Mann–Kendall results ($z = 5.03$, $n = 108$, $p\text{-value} = 4.88 \times 10^{-8}$) still show a highly significant positive trend in customer weighted outage hours.

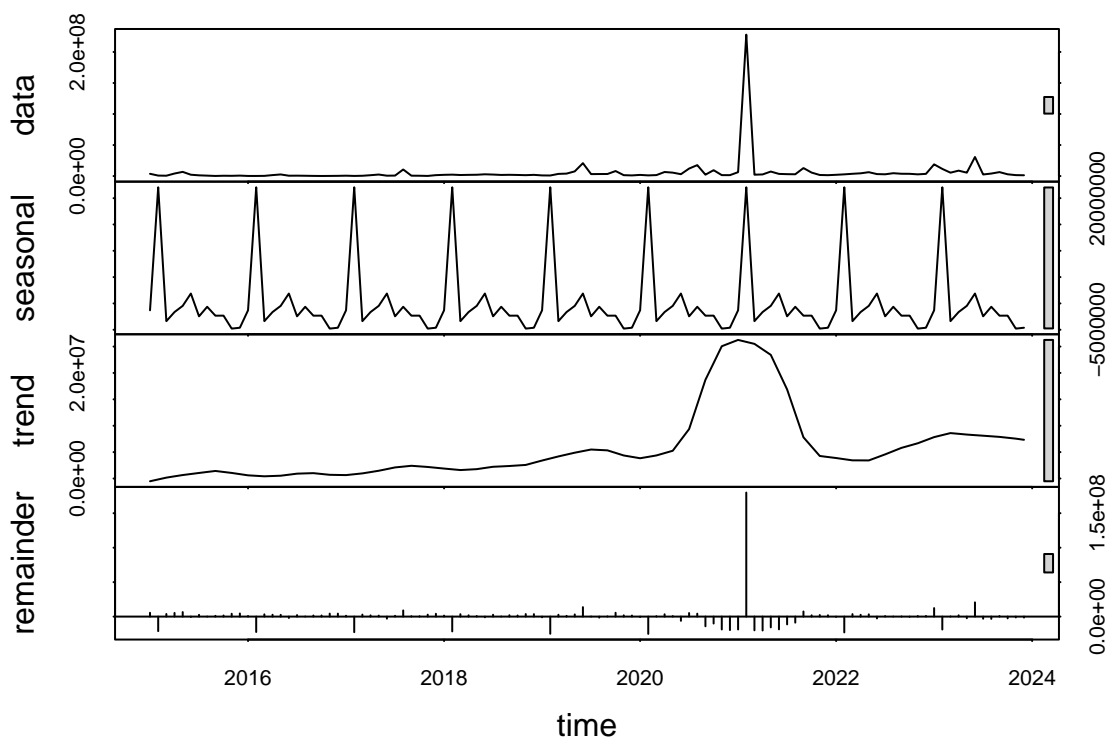


Figure 29: Decomposed trend of customer weighted outage time in Texas

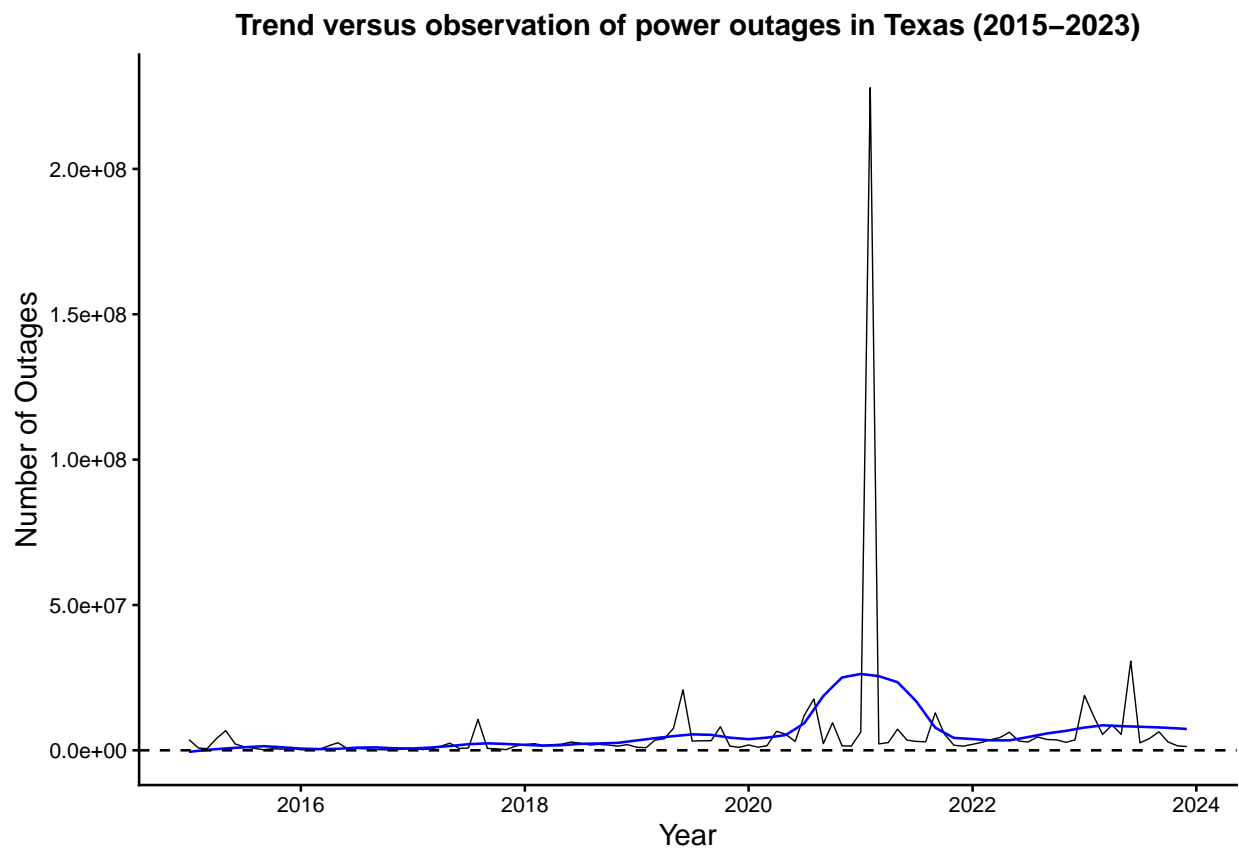


Figure 30: Trend versus observation of customer weighted hours in Texas (2015-2023).

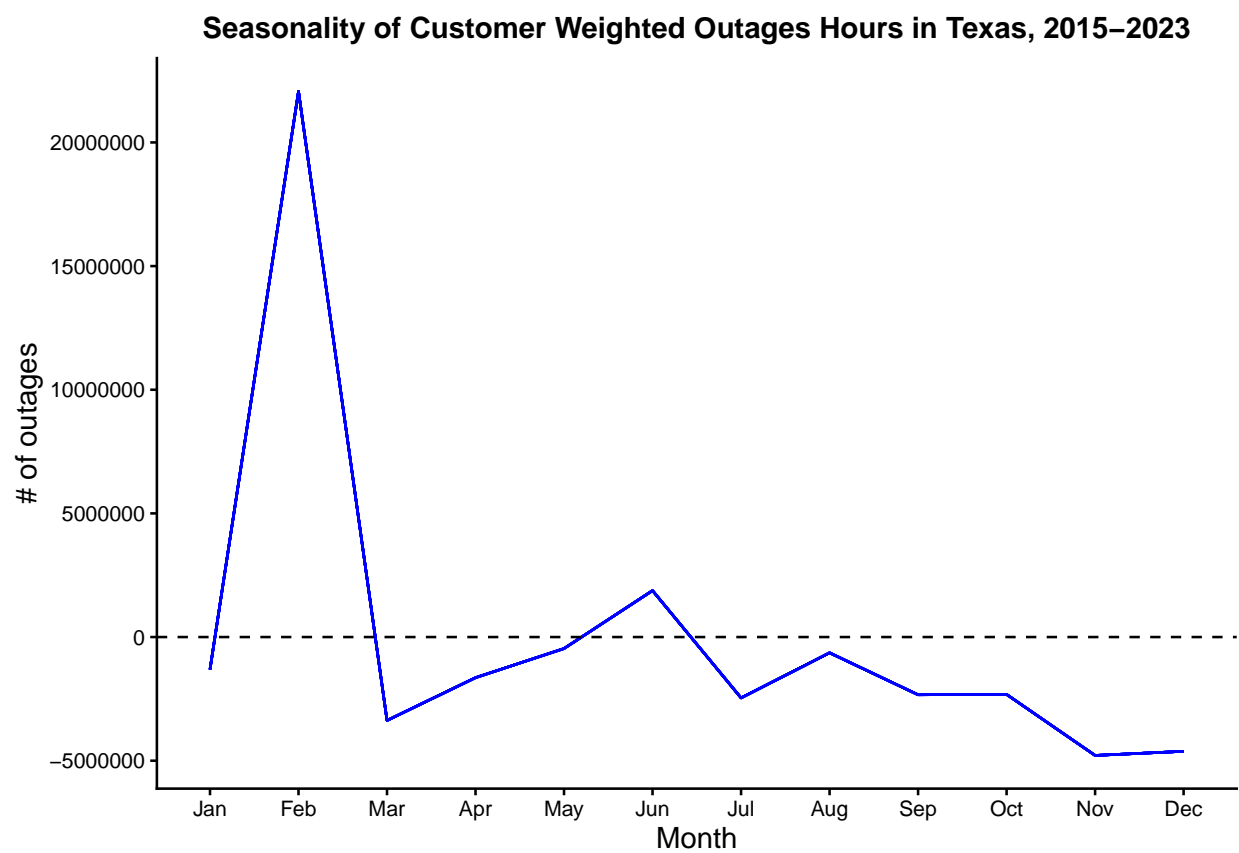


Figure 31: Seasonal component of customer weighted outage hours in Texas

4.3.5 Comparison between States

This plot shows the non-seasonal pattern of customer-weighted outage hours for four states from 2015–2023 (Figure 32). Overall, California and Texas both show a similar strong upward trend, indicating that total customer-weighted outage has increased intensely since 2015. The rise in outage hours for California could be a result of California’s increasing amount of wildfire. Texas outage increase could be caused by winter storm impact and high summer demands. While Florida has the highest overall customer weighted outage hours, it is only experiencing a mild increase. Pennsylvania remains the lowest out of all four states, and is also showing a pattern of slow increase. (feel free to add more!)

**not sure how good of a graphic this is, outliers are removed from view so you can see the trends

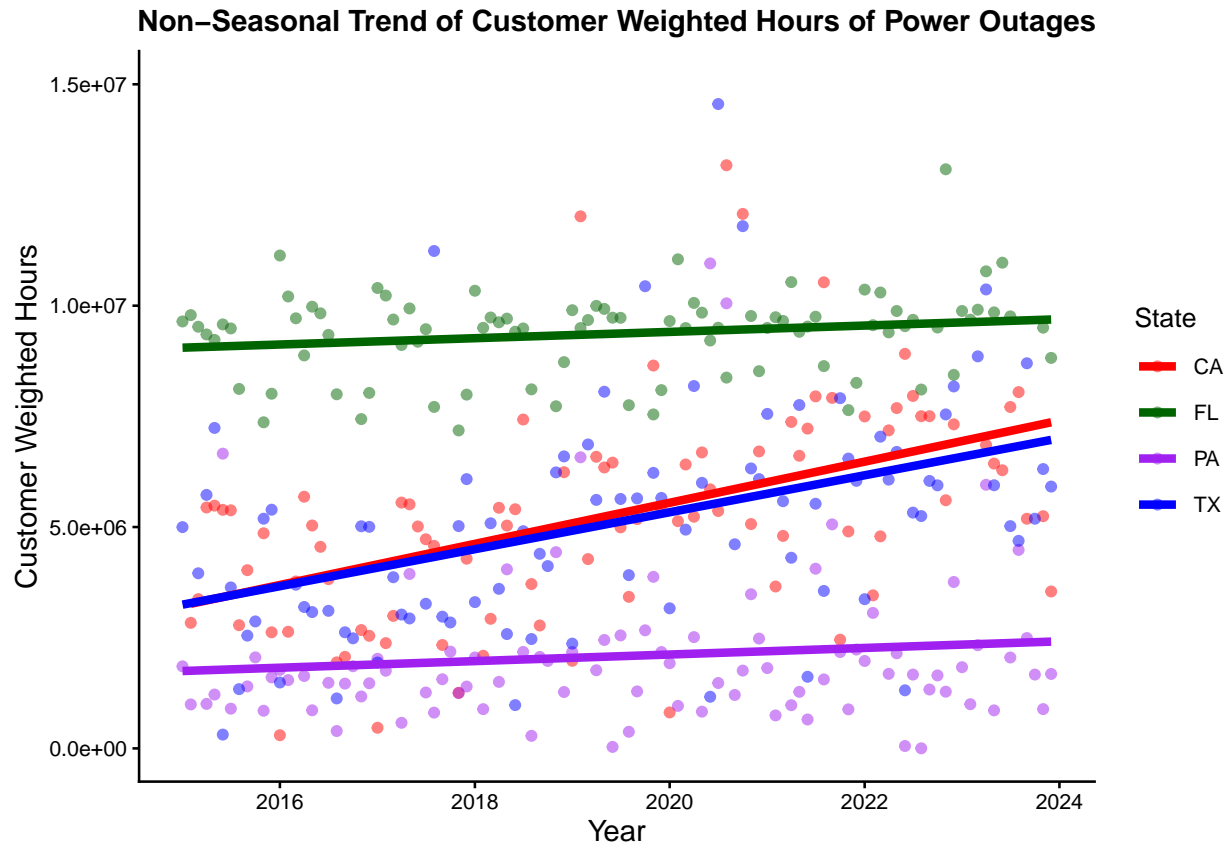


Figure 32: Non-seasonal pattern of customer-weighted outage hours for CA, FL, PA, and TX from 2015–2023.

5 Summary and Conclusions

Summarize your major findings from your analyses in a few paragraphs. What conclusions do you draw from your findings? Relate your findings back to the original research questions and rationale.

In California, power outages have become increasingly common and increasingly disruptive over the past decade. The time-series analysis reveal a noticeable seasonal cycle, with outages typically rising during the summer months and often reaching their highest levels in early fall. This aligns with California's peak wildfire season. Alongside this seasonal cycle, both the frequency of outages and the total customer impact have trended upward over time, indicating that Californians are experiencing more outages and that these events are affecting larger numbers of customers than in previous years.

In Florida, power outages have gradually increased over the past decade, with a clear seasonal pattern. Outages typically rise during the summer months, a time where Florida experiences extreme heat, storms, and high electricity demand. In contrast, the winter months see far fewer disruptions. Although the exact monthly pattern shifts slightly from year to year, the overall seasonal cycle remains consistent. Long-term patterns show that Florida is experiencing more outages over time, indicating that both environmental pressures such as an increase in storms and growing energy demand may be contributing to the steady upward trend.

After accounting for seasonal patterns, the analysis shows that the number of power outages in Pennsylvania has increased from 2015 to 2023. Outage counts display a clear seasonal trend, with the highest numbers occurring in the summer months of June, July, and August. In contrast, customer-weighted hours do not show a strong seasonal pattern, but there is a slight upward trend over time, indicating that the impact of outages on customers is also gradually increasing. Overall, while outages are becoming more frequent and seasonally concentrated, the effect on customers is rising more moderately.

After running ANOVA and MannKendall tests, the results show that there's an overall increasing trend of power outages in Texas from 2015-2023. The customer weighted outage hours take into account the amount of customers impacted by these outages, which also shows an increasing trend over the study period. However, it is surprising that despite the visual season trend, Texas does not have a seasonal trend of power outages.

After comparing outage patterns across all four states, Florida and Pennsylvania show clear seasonal patterns in power outages, with events concentrated in the summer, especially July, and dropping sharply in winter. Texas peaks earlier in May, while California has no strong seasonal pattern, though outages rise somewhat in October. ANOVA results confirm this; Florida and Pennsylvania have extremely low p-values, indicating strong seasonality, while California and Texas have high p-values, indicating no statistically significant seasonal trend. These patterns may relate to regional climate factors. Florida and Pennsylvania face strong summer energy demand and storms, Texas experiences diverse weather but no consistent seasonal driver, and California's fire season varies widely year to year.

From 2015 to 2023, customer-weighted outage hours show a strong upward trend in both California and Texas, indicating growth in the scale of outages. California's rise is likely tied to increasingly severe wildfires, while Texas's growth may reflect the combined effects of winter storms and heavy summer electricity demand. Florida, although having the highest overall outage hours, shows only a mild upward trend. Pennsylvania has the lowest outage numbers among the four states and is experiencing only a slight gradual increase over time.

To strengthen the project in the future, we could include more nuanced perspectives by incorporating socioeconomic data to examine the broader impact that power outages could have on a community. It would also be interesting to inspect spatial data and identify areas in a state that are most vulnerable to power outages.

6 References

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