U.S. Energy Information Administration

.. sales
..erage retail
. retail rates and
..s are presented as a
..ectricity consumption.

Electricity

Electricity Monthly Update ..rage Revenue per kWh by state

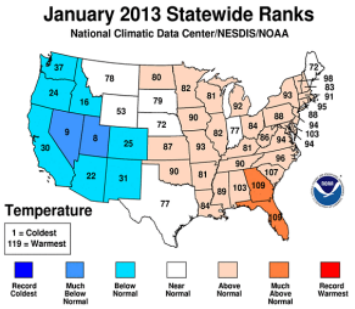
With Data for January 2013 | **Release Date:** Mar. 22, 2013 | **Next Release Date:** Apr. 22, 2013

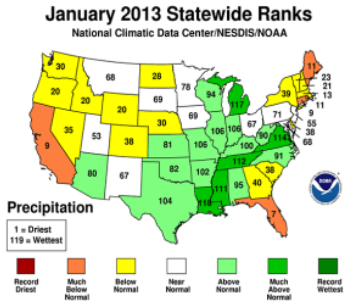
Highlights: January 2013

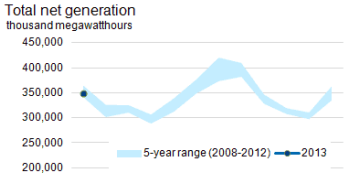
- The monthly average of daily spot natural gas price for New York City went from $5.54 / MMBtu in December 2012 to $10.36 / MMBtu in January 2013 due to a cold snap experienced in the northeast at the end of January.
- The northeast saw a significant year-over-year decrease in electricity generation from natural gas due to the significant increase in regional natural gas prices. Generation from coal and other fossil fuels displaced natural gas generation.
- Daily spot wholesale electricity prices in New England and New York rose significantly in the second half of January. The reported hub prices in these regions peaked on January 25th, at $253.36/MWh in New York and $260.51/MWh in New England.

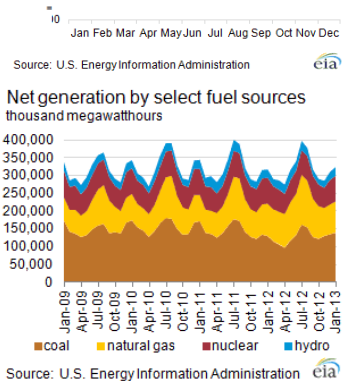
Key Indicators

	January 2013	% Change from January 2012
Total Net Generation (Thousand MWh)	348,642	2.3%
Residential Retail Price (cents/kWh)	11.47	0.7%
Retail Sales (Thousand MWh)	317,482	2.1%
Heating Degree-Days	827	10.1%
Natural Gas Price, Henry Hub ($/MMBtu)	3.45	25.5%
Coal Stocks (Thousand Tons)	180,318	0.7%
Coal Consumption (Thousand Tons)	75,110	6.0%
Natural Gas Consumption (Mcf)	660,231	-2.2%
Nuclear Outages (MW)	9,586	38.0%

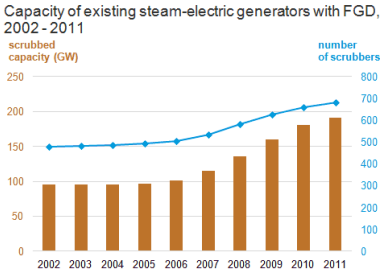








U.S. power plants invested $30 billion in scrubbers between 2007 and 2011



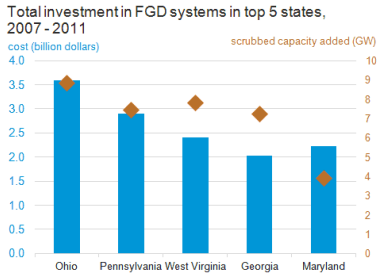
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Electric Generator Report (Form EIA-860).

Between 2007 and 2011, owners of 110 coal-fired power plants in 34 states invested more than $30 billion in flue gas desulfurization (FGD) systems, also known as scrubbers. Scrubbers remove most sulfur dioxide (SO2), a precursor to the formation of acid rain and fine particulate matter, which is associated with premature mortality. From 2002 to 2006, scrubber installations increased slightly; however, starting in 2007 scrubbed capacity rose more rapidly. Between 2007 and 2011, the amount of scrubbed generating capacity rose almost 66%, to just over 191 GW from 115 GW. This 191 GW represents a little less than 60% of coal-fired, steam electric generation capacity in the country.

Utilities made this significant investment in response to several regulatory initiatives, including EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and state programs such as the Maryland Healthy Air Act (2007), which were designed to limit SO2 as well as other pollutants.

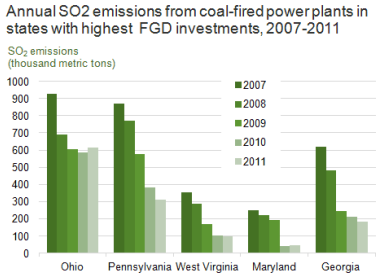
SO2 emissions have declined significantly as the use of scrubbers has grown. Nationally, power plant SO2 emissions in 2011 were 68% lower than the 1990 level and 46% lower than the 2007 level. Other than scrubber investments, burning less coal and switching to lower sulfur coal by many power plants also played a significant part in reducing emissions.

Taken together, power plant operators in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Georgia invested a total of $13 billion in scrubbers between 2007 and 2011, over 43% of the total national investment, with Ohio plants topping the list at $3.6 billion.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Electric Generator Report (Form EIA-860).

Between 2007 and 2011, SO2 emissions fell considerably in all of these states, particularly in Maryland, West Virginia and Georgia, where emissions reductions were between 70% and 81%.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, internal estimates based on Environmental Protection Agency's Air Markets Program Data, EIA-860 and EIA-923.

Principal Contributor: Sue Ray

(Suparna.Ray@eia.gov)