**Balancing the Grid: Import Reliance and Diversity in Electricity Systems**

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# Abstract

This study evaluates electricity import reliance and diversity across U.S. balancing authorities, providing novel insights into grid reliability and risk management. Using formal metrics, including a diversity index and import reliance calculations, the analysis quantifies the extent and variability of electricity imports across regions. The relationship between import reliance and diversity is analyzed and import reliance during high demand periods is assessed. Key findings reveal that larger balancing authorities with broad trading relationships tend to exhibit higher diversity and lower reliance on imports. Importantly, this research highlights that while diversity and reliance metrics are valuable comparative tools, the national data applied in this analysis do not account for local complexities important for reliability, and additional engineering and socio-economic analysis is required to assess individual systems in more detail. This study is likely the first in the literature to apply a formal diversity index to electricity imports among U.S. balancing authorities, offering a unique framework for electricity system planners and policymakers to understand electric interconnections and inform reliability planning.

# Introduction

In recent years, the electricity sector has faced unprecedented challenges, making reliability a more critical and complex concern than ever before. Traditional planning and operational paradigms are increasingly strained by transformative changes in supply, demand, and external risks. Key drivers include the rapid integration of variable renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, the retirement of conventional generation resources, accelerating electrification and growing demand across sectors, and the increasing prevalence of extreme weather events. Together, these trends require new approaches to ensure that electricity systems can reliably serve demand across all conditions, especially during periods of stress.

A central focus of contemporary research is developing electricity system planning strategies that ensure adequate resources are available year-round and under extreme conditions. However, one area that remains understudied is the role of electricity imports in maintaining reliability.

Imports, defined here as electricity supplied from outside a system's immediate jurisdiction, can play a vital role during periods of high demand or low supply. Yet, they also present significant uncertainties compared to local resources. Import availability depends on excess capacity in neighboring systems, and these resources are generally outside the direct control of the importing entity, introducing complexities into reliability assessments and planning efforts.

Capacity planning across the industry can be improved by better considering the contribution of interconnections to neighboring regions and reliance on imports for local system adequacy [1,2]. Multiple studies conclude that national- or state-level coordination from policymakers is needed to address sub-optimal outcomes that tend to occur when individual operators are left to plan for resources in isolation without considering the role of complementary regional trade and interconnection [3–7].

This study explores two dimensions of electricity imports: reliance and diversity. Import reliance, or the proportion of a system’s electricity consumption sourced externally, is a straightforward measure that highlights dependency levels across balancing authorities. In contrast, import diversity provides insight into the range and balance of import sources. Together, these metrics offer complementary perspectives on the opportunities and risks associated with electricity imports.

While high import reliance may not inherently signify reliability concerns, its implications vary based on the diversity of supply sources and contractual arrangements. For instance, reliance on a single exporter could introduce risks during periods of simultaneous system stress, whereas a diversified portfolio of imports may enhance resilience. Additionally, economic and political factors, such as market rules, transmission infrastructure, and interregional cooperation, influence the feasibility and reliability of electricity trade, underlying the importance of further interdisciplinary work to fully understand the nature of electric systems [8].

This paper addresses an important research gap by examining import reliance and diversity across U.S. balancing authorities. Balancing Authorities (BA’s) in the United States have responsibilities defined by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation to integrate resource plans ahead of time, conduct demand and resource balancing within their area, and maintain reliability in real time [9].

Historic hourly interchange across balancing authorities were analyzed from 2016-2023, with data from the United States Energy Information Administration [14]. All data, code, and raw files for figures are available in the public project repository at <https://github.com/steven-dahlke/2025-Balancing-the-Grid--Import-Reliance-and-Diversity-in-Electricity-Systems>. The analysis highlights recent historical patterns in import reliance and diversity across BA’s that illuminate both economic and reliability considerations. It further investigates how the metrics shift during periods of high net demand, a critical time for assessing system stress. By integrating quantitative and contextual analysis, the study aims to provide actionable insights for planners, policymakers, and researchers navigating the evolving landscape of grid reliability.

# Import Reliance

Import reliance is defined as the fraction of domestic consumption covered by net electricity imports over a period of interest. It is a simple metric that is easy to interpret and commonly applied in the research literature on electricity supply security [10–13], sometimes also referred to “import dependence.”

## Descriptive Analysis

Figure 1 displays average import reliance by BA. In general, Figure 1 shows the areas in the U.S. with relatively higher levels of imports include the Northwest, Southwest, and Northeast. The highest levels of import reliance in the U.S. were among balancing authorities in the Northwest U.S. Specifically, Portland General Electric Company, Puget Sound Energy, and the City of Tacoma Department of Public Utilities had the highest shares of import reliance at 0.70, 0.57, and 0.48, respectively. Nearly all the imports into these three systems came from the Bonneville Power Administration, which supplies low-cost hydropower across the region.

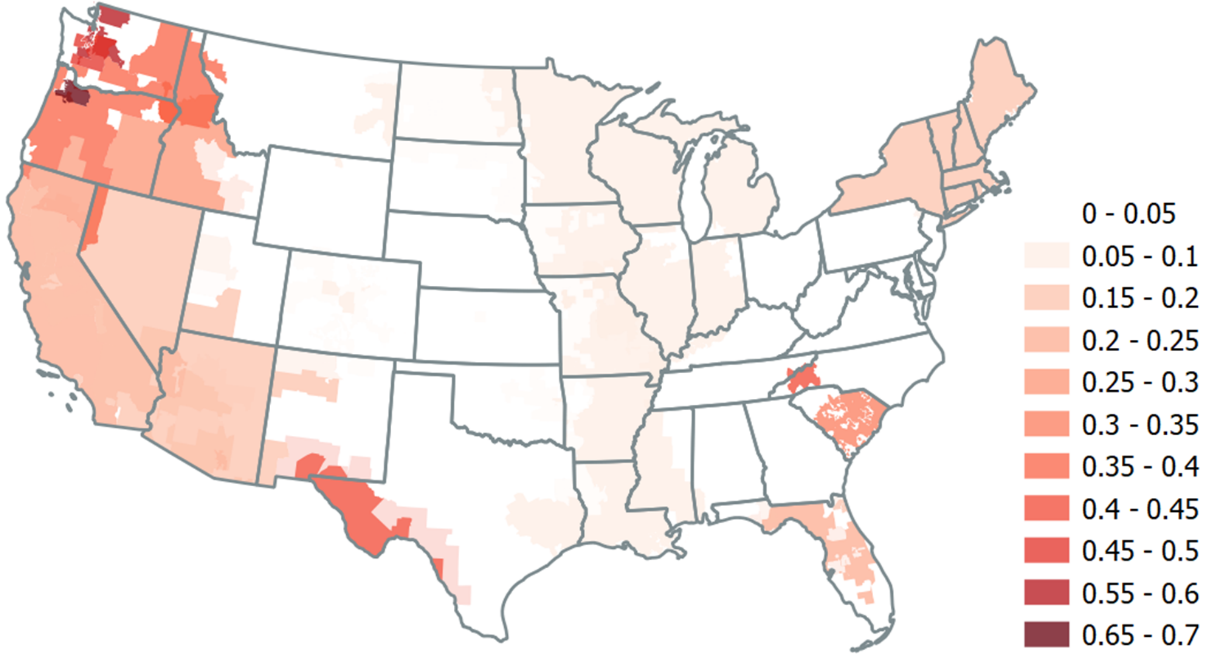


Figure Import share of total electricity consumption by U.S. Balancing Authority, 2016-2023.

There are a few additional balancing authorities shown in Figure 1 with relatively high import dependence that appear to be outliers relative to their neighbors. El Paso Electric Company in southwest Texas was 44% reliant on imports over the sample period; roughly two-thirds of El Paso’s imports were from Public Service Company of New Mexico, and one-third from Tucson Electric Power.

Duke Energy Progress (DEP) in the Carolinas is administratively split into two BAs in the west and the east part of its footprint. DEP west is 42% reliant on imports and significantly smaller than DEP east. Most DEP west imports come from its neighboring Duke-controlled BAs. In this way, the high level of import reliance in the DEP west BA may not reflect significant import reliance risk if the Duke parent company owns and controls the resources being traded across the multiple BAs in the Carolinas.

Duke Energy Florida (DEF) is also relatively import-reliant at 24% compared to its neighboring systems. It is relatively diverse in its sources of imports and, unlike the Duke balancing authorities in the Carolinas, does not trade with parent company affiliates. Rather, 32% of DEF imports were from Florida Power & Light, 26% from Florida Municipal Power Pool, and 24% from Seminole Electric Cooperative. It also receives smaller levels of imports from Gainesville Regional Utilities, Southern Company, and Tampa Electric Company.

Table 1 in the Appendix provides import reliance numbers annually and across the full sample, for U.S. balancing authorities with average demand greater than 500 MW.

## Discussion

The import reliance metric is simple to calculate and interpret and provides an accurate perspective on the reliance of a balancing authority on electricity supply outside its control. In this way it presents a useful starting point for analysis. However, while import reliance is a useful descriptive statistic, it is somewhat limited in describing reliability risk in part because it does not account for relevant characteristics of the contractual arrangements underlying electricity imports. For example, a balancing authority whose imports are provided under firm delivery arrangements may have lower reliability risk than a BA that relies on significant imports purchased from a spot market.

It is important to note that high “import reliance” is not necessarily a reliability concern- there are likely good reasons when a system operator imports electricity to supply local demand. Several studies have shown economic efficiency gains from trade available when two regions increase electricity trade [15–18]. The characteristics and drivers of electricity trade vary depending on the underlying characteristics of individual systems, including resource mixes, demand profiles, geographic traits, and local politics.

Despite economic efficiency possibilities from regional trade, there are reasons why expanding electricity trade could be more costly than the available benefits. One potentially significant barrier is if physical links connecting two BAs are already congested, alongside the sometimes-prohibitive cost of building new electric transmission lines [19]. Furthermore, the integration and associated regional efficiencies associated with electricity price equalization will produce a subset of economic losers [20], including electricity customers who face higher prices after increasing exports, and producers facing reduced profits from imports [21].

Other factors to consider to understand the observed trading situation between two electricity systems include the political relationships between regions, market trading rules, and other institutional realities that could create trading friction or other sources of risk associated with expanding trade [22]. Sometimes regional integration is accompanied by efforts to expand BA territory, which can involve an expansion of centralized control over dispatch and resource adequacy for a grid operator in one of the regions, which requires a level of acceptance from all local market participants and stakeholders. It is often tempting for analysts to consider trading opportunities from an economic efficiency lens without similarly considering the potentially significant political cooperation needed as a foundation for successful and lasting economic integration of regional electricity systems [23,24].

Finally, the import reliance metric also does not incorporate the diversity of external sources of supply, which is a relevant factor for assessing reliability risk. A region relying on imports may be more reliable if it has many different sources of external supply. In contrast, a balancing authority that is heavily reliant on imports from a single system operator may have higher risk. This “import diversity” perspective is analyzed further in subsequent sections.

# Import Diversity

A diverse set of import sources is beneficial for multiple reasons. Reduced dependency on one or a small number of exporters increases the probability of supply being available when needed. Integrated regions can arbitrage geographic differences in weather and climate, demand patterns, and technology mix, which can improve the availability of supply, increase economic efficiency, and may support mitigating local extreme events such as a heat wave, natural disaster, or infrastructure failure [25–27]. On the other hand, achieving import diversity through additional trading relationships with neighboring systems may require managing greater transaction costs and administrative requirements, as different balancing authorities have varying trading procedures [28]. Furthermore, expanding the physical links across systems needed to enhance diversity can be slowed down by incompatible infrastructure cost allocation and development procedures across regions [29,30].

## Method

It is useful in this context to apply a metric for quantifying and comparing import diversity. The Shannon Diversity Index is useful for this application. It was initially applied through information theory to measure the quantity of information included in a communication signal [31]. Since then, it has been applied as a measure of diversity for a range of applications, notably in ecologic systems [32,33] and economics [34].

The Shannon Diversity Index (herein “diversity index”) has also been widely considered in energy security-focused studies as a metric for diversity of primary energy and energy import sources, commonly at the nation-state level via geo-political energy analysis [35–49]. A smaller number of studies have utilized the diversity metric to assess electricity system-specific generation diversity [50–54]. This study is the only one the author is aware of that applies a formal index to assess diversity of electricity imports among electric balancing authorities within the United States.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | *(1)* |

The diversity index applied to electric balancing authority imports is defined in equation (1), where is the share of imports from neighboring BA , relative to total imports into the balancing authority of interest.

Mathematically, the diversity index is inversely related to the geoemetric mean of the relative shares such that a higher value describes a system with a more diverse set of imports. It can be shown that is the geometric mean of the relative shares [55,56], so that a relatively concentrated (less diverse) set leads to a lower H value. In a bookend case, if a system’s imports were fully served by a single neighbor ( and all other ), then the diversity metric would equal zero.

Conversely, the diversity metric increases with more trading partners (e.g. a higher ). Also, for a given set of import sources (e.g. hold constant), the diversity metric is maximized when all are equal (e.g. ). In this way, the diversity index considers the “evenness” of import sources, which is analogous to a less concentrated set of import sources. A set of “even” suggests a system’s imports are balanced across its trading partners such that one isn’t more dominant than others, representing a “diverse” import situation.

In considering both the number of import sources and the concentration of imports across trading partners, the Shannon diversity index provides an effective quantitative measurement for import diversity at the US balancing authority level for this study application.

## Results

Figure 2 maps the diversity index calculated at the balancing-authority level across the United States. It is worth noting here that the shapefile territories of balancing authorities (obtained from [57]) can have overlapping boundaries, where multiple BA’s share parts of the same spatial extent on the map. In these cases, the darkest among the overlapping polygons is retained and displayed.

A map of the united states

Description automatically generated

Figure Import diversity metric by U.S. Balancing Authority, 2016-2023

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), California ISO (CAISO), Salt River Project (SRP), Midcontinent ISO, and Southwest Power Pool, have the highest measured import diversity levels for US balancing authorities during the sample period. BPA, for example, imports from 18 different neighboring systems. The largest shares of BPA imports come from Northwestern Energy, followed by a handful of public utility districts. CAISO imports from 12 systems, with its highest levels of imports coming from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, followed by Bonneville Power, Salt River Project, and Arizona Public Service. SRP imports from 8 systems, and its import sources are relatively balanced across 6 of them, including WAPA Desert Southwest, Arlington Valley, Arizona Public Service, Tucson Electric Power, Gridforce, and New Harquahala.

Balancing authorities with a low diversity index include a small handful in the Pacific Northwest, JEA in Northeast Florida, ERCOT in Texas, and Public Service Company of Colorado. Those with low import diversity in the Pacific Northwest get most of their external supply from the Bonneville Power Authority (BPA). For example, Tacoma Power received over 99% of its imports from BPA during the sample period, while Portland General Electric and Seattle City Light are at 96% and 94%, respectively. For JEA in Florida, 97% of imports came from Florida Power & Light. Over 95% of the limited imports into ERCOT came from the Southwest Power Pool, while 93% of Public Service Company of Colorado’s imports were from Western Area Power Administration Rocky Mountain Balancing Authority.

Table 2in the Appendix provides diversity indices for the full sample period (2016-2023) and individually by year for U.S. Balancing Authorities with average demand greater than 500 MW. It can be noted from this table that, in most cases, the diversity metric across the full sample is higher than the average diversity metric for individual years. In general, import diversity tends to be less concentrated when considered across a larger sample because system conditions and the trading dynamics with neighboring BA’s tend to change, often in a manner that improves total diversity when it is considered over a longer period.

# More On the “Balancing Authority”

Calculating the import reliance and diversity indices at the balancing authority level is a straightforward choice for this analysis, as the U.S. Energy Information Administration tracks and reports on electric interchange at the balancing authority level. The results provide a starting point to begin to understand diversity of imports across relevant control areas in the United States for high-level comparisons. However, sweeping conclusions for any individual balancing authority based on these results should be avoided, and more scrutiny and analysis of local situations should be conducted prior to making policy or business decisions for individual regions.

Balancing authorities vary widely in size across the United States, ranging from over 9 GW of average demand in PJM to less than 50 MW for the NERC-certified electric balancing authority of New Smyrna Beach, a surfers’ hub in eastern Florida. There are also several generation-only BAs that serve no load, consisting of power plant owners who made the business decision to provide their own required reliability services rather than purchase services from and integrate into an available balancing authority in their territory [58].

Some large balancing authorities consist of several local systems, which may be a more suitable unit of analysis to compare with other small balancing authorities. For example, MISO is a balancing authority which has many “local balancing authorities” (LBAs), which are often electric operating companies roughly comparable to balancing authorities outside of regional transmission organizations. However, electricity trade data are not available at the LBA level. Thus, additional analysis to dive deeper into local systems of interest is important to reflect the varying characteristics of balancing authorities across the industry.

# Evaluating Electricity Import Reliance and Diversity Jointly

One pattern observed in the results from Appendix Table 2 is a correlation between a balancing authority’s size and its diversity index.[[1]](#footnote-1) Larger systems tend to have higher numbers of trading partners to import from, contributing to a larger diversity index. Furthermore (and perhaps relatedly) some large balancing authorities with high diversity have low import reliance. Bonneville Power Administration, Salt River Project, Southwest Power Pool, and PJM are among the strongest examples of systems with high import diversity but minimal import reliance, though there are other examples as well. Across all U.S. balancing authorities, the correlation between import diversity and reliance is -0.42.

In cases like the above examples where import reliance is low, diversity may be of less concern to an electric company or policymaker from a reliability perspective because local supply dispatchable by the system operator serves a large share of local demand. Conversely, diversity may be more important for systems with high levels of imports. An electricity system that relies heavily on imports could have a higher risk of supply disruption if it relies on a less diverse set of imports.

Consider Figure 3, a scatterplot of import reliance versus import diversity for each U.S.s balancing authority. In this sample, there is wide variation in diversity for balancing authorities with low import reliance, clustered in the blue region. On average, diversity may be less important to the overall system for the BAs in blue relative to others. A diverse set of imports may be more important for systems with higher levels of import reliance. BAs in the green cluster have both high diversity and high import reliance. Conversely, a system highly reliant on a concentrated (less diverse) set of imports may be more susceptible to reliability issues, represented by the red cluster.

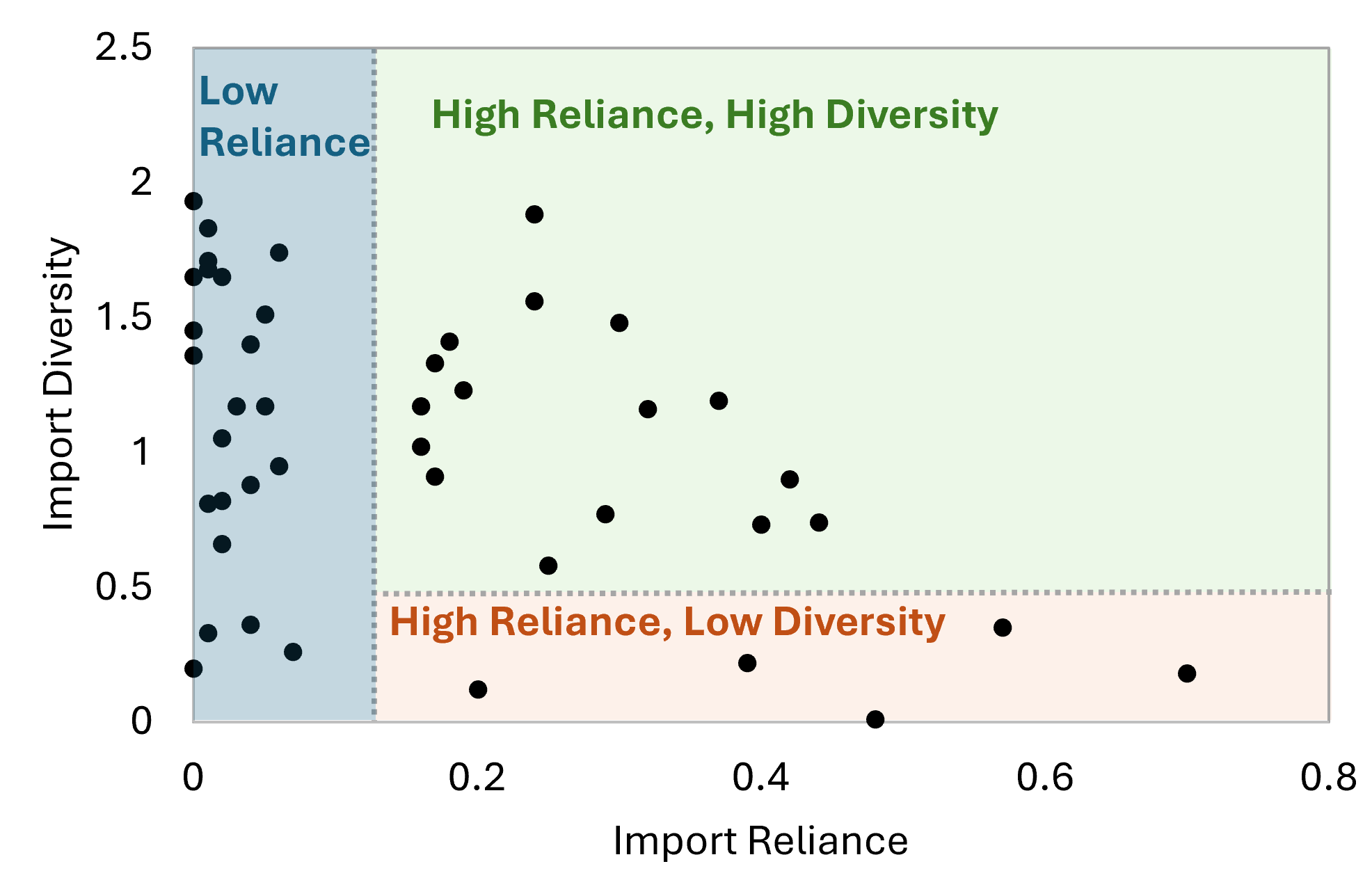


Figure Scatter plot of U.S. balancing authority import reliance versus import diversity metrics, partitioned into three spaces.

Following the premise that import diversity is more important for electricity systems that rely more heavily on imports, a third metric is applied that rescales the balancing authority diversity score by its import reliance. The new joint import reliance-diversity metric for U.S. BAs is reported in Appendix Table 3, which is calculated by simply multiplying the import reliance value in Table 1 by import diversity in Table 2. The balancing authorities with the highest reliance-diversity metric values in Table 3 are those in the upper right frontier of the Figure 3 scatterplot. These are the balancing authorities that have high reliance on imports from a diverse set of trading partners, and include California ISO, Tucson Electric Power, PacifiCorp, and Duke.

To summarize this analysis of electricity import metrics, quantifying import reliance and diversity highlights key patterns that can help understand a system’s operating risks. Larger balancing authorities with a wider range of trading partners tend to have higher diversity scores, and those with high diversity are more likely to show lower reliance on imports, indicating strong local supply. For balancing authorities that have high import reliance, a diverse set of import sources can be more important for maintaining reliability. While the metrics used in this analysis offer a useful means of comparative assessment across balancing authorities, they do not fully capture the complexities of system reliability. Specifically, they overlook the role of available imports during periods of extreme demand, especially when considering net demand after accounting for wind and solar variability. This analysis provides an analysis of the recent past (the years 2016-2023) to give a strong indication of present conditions at the time of publication. System planners, policymakers, and stakeholders should apply these metrics to models of future system pathways to understand the potential evolution of risk going forward.

# Electricity Imports During High Demand Periods

The import reliance and diversity metrics discussed in prior sections describe conditions across all operating periods. This section analyzes imports during periods of high net electricity demand when availability of imports alongside other resources becomes more important. Specifically, average import shares for U.S. balancing authorities during hours when net electricity demand is at or above the 95th percentile are calculated and reported in the Appendix Table 4 . Net demand is used to determine stressful periods because it represents the share of demand net of variable wind and solar generation to be served by imports and other dispatchable resources. High electricity demand is less of a reliability concern during a period of high variable renewable production. For these reasons, grid operators and planners operators often focus on net load, especially on systems with growing wind and solar penetrations [59].

The sample period used to calculate import shares during periods of high demand (2018-2023) is smaller than the sample used in prior sections of this article, because hourly data on technology-level electric generation at the balancing authority level is available starting July 1, 2018. It is interesting to compare the difference between import shares during high net-demand periods with average import shares, which is done in Table 4 and plotted in Figure 4. This shows 21 balancing authorities with a positive difference (e.g. their import shares increase during high net demand periods), and 22 balancing authorities with a negative difference.

Figure Difference in average import share during high net load periods (>=p95) and average net load across US balancing authorities, 2018-2023

Balancing authorities with larger import shares during high net demand periods compared to all periods (i.e. the top half of bars in the positive direction in Figure 4) were able to procure more imports when resources were most needed. The balancing authorities with the largest increases in import shares during high net demand periods include PacifiCorp, Associated Electric Coop., Idaho Power Company, Arizona Public Service Company, and Nevada Power Company. All these operators had increases in import shares of 10 percentage points or more during high net-demand periods. Conversely, balancing authorities with a decrease in average import shares during high net-demand periods are receiving less imports during periods when electricity supply is likely most needed. More local supply is required to maintain reliability in these areas during high demand periods to make up for the decrease in electricity imports. These findings highlight the importance of understanding import behavior during high net-demand periods to inform strategies for maintaining reliability across diverse grid conditions.

# Conclusion

This study provides an analysis of electricity import reliance and diversity across U.S. balancing authorities, shedding light on the interplay between trading relationships, local supply adequacy, and grid reliability. By applying formal metrics, including a diversity index, this research highlights patterns that can inform operating risk assessments and strategic planning. Larger BA’s with diverse trading partners generally demonstrate lower import reliance, reflecting the benefits of robust local generation. For BA’s with high import reliance, diversity of sources is potentially more important for maintaining reliability, particularly during times of stress.

While these metrics offer valuable insights, they are not a panacea for evaluating system resilience. They must be complemented by further analyses that account for the temporal dynamics of supply and demand, particularly in the context of renewable energy variability and extreme weather events along with the future evolution of the system. Despite these limitations, the study provides a framework for understanding the interdependencies in electricity imports across balancing authorities. By applying these metrics, future research can refine our understanding of grid reliability in an evolving energy landscape, ensuring that system operators and policymakers are better equipped to manage the challenges of an interconnected grid.

***Disclaimer***

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect the policy nor position of the Colorado state government. The author assumes full responsibility for the content herein.

# Appendix

Table Import reliance (net imports divided by domestic consumption) for USA balancing authorities with annual average demand >500 MW.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Total** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| Portland General Electric Company | 0.70 | 0.71 | 0.75 | 0.67 | 0.73 | 0.75 | 0.71 | 0.75 | 0.65 |
| Puget Sound Energy, Inc. | 0.57 | 0.47 | 0.51 | 0.54 | 0.44 | 0.30 | 0.73 | 0.79 | 0.68 |
| City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division | 0.48 | 0.36 | 0.38 | 0.51 | 0.67 | 0.45 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.58 |
| El Paso Electric Company | 0.44 | 0.55 | 0.52 | 0.39 | 0.36 | 0.42 | 0.44 | 0.46 | 0.36 |
| Duke Energy Progress West | 0.42 | 0.64 | 0.66 | 0.56 | 0.58 | 0.26 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.17 |
| Avista Corporation | 0.40 | 0.43 | 0.46 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.36 | 0.38 |
| Seattle City Light | 0.39 | 0.29 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.45 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.39 | 0.52 |
| PacifiCorp West | 0.37 | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.22 | 0.36 | 0.40 | 0.39 | 0.61 | 0.75 |
| South Carolina Public Service Authority | 0.32 | 0.27 | 0.32 | 0.28 | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.33 | 0.36 | 0.30 |
| Tucson Electric Power | 0.30 | 0.38 | 0.40 | 0.24 | 0.28 | 0.32 | 0.28 | 0.30 | 0.22 |
| Idaho Power Company | 0.29 | 0.32 | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.27 | 0.34 | 0.40 | 0.27 |
| Balancing Authority of Northern California | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.26 | 0.17 | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.40 | 0.16 |
| California Independent System Operator | 0.24 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.22 | 0.14 |
| Duke Energy Florida, Inc. | 0.24 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.20 | 0.24 |
| JEA | 0.20 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.27 | 0.33 | 0.15 | 0.25 | 0.28 | 0.31 |
| Los Angeles Department of Water and Power | 0.19 | 0.17 | 0.15 | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.17 | 0.19 | 0.25 | 0.27 |
| Western Area Power Administration - Desert Southwest Region | 0.18 | 0.24 | 0.34 | 0.30 | 0.16 | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.13 | 0.11 |
| ISO New England | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.14 |
| Nevada Power Company | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.22 | 0.20 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.15 |
| Arizona Public Service Company | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.24 | 0.37 | 0.34 | 0.40 |
| New York Independent System Operator | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.16 |
| Public Service Company of Colorado | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0.11 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.00 |
| Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.08 | 0.11 |
| Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.06 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.06 |
| PacifiCorp East | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 |
| Public Service Company of New Mexico | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.08 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.06 |
| Florida Municipal Power Pool | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.05 |
| Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.12 |
| PowerSouth Energy Cooperative | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.08 |  |  |
| Duke Energy Progress East | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.03 |
| Duke Energy Carolinas | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Florida Power & Light Co. | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.06 |
| Tennessee Valley Authority | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.02 |
| Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| NorthWestern Corporation | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Southwest Power Pool | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| Tampa Electric Company | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Bonneville Power Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| PJM Interconnection, LLC | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Southern Company Services, Inc. - Trans | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Western Area Power Administration - Rocky Mountain Region | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Table Import diversity (measured by Shannon Diversity Index) by USA balancing authorities with annual average demand >500 MW.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Total | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Bonneville Power Administration | 1.93 | 1.64 | 1.71 | 1.68 | 1.86 | 1.72 | 1.86 | 1.92 | 2.11 |
| California Independent System Operator | 1.88 | 1.73 | 1.73 | 1.69 | 1.73 | 1.82 | 1.93 | 1.91 | 1.92 |
| Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District | 1.83 | 1.30 | 1.41 | 1.43 | 1.10 | 1.14 | 1.61 | 1.61 | 1.68 |
| Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. | 1.74 | 1.88 | 1.83 | 1.84 | 1.79 | 1.62 | 1.61 | 1.67 | 1.39 |
| Southwest Power Pool | 1.71 | 1.54 | 1.77 | 1.87 | 1.61 | 0.83 | 1.47 | 1.62 | 1.58 |
| NorthWestern Corporation | 1.68 | 1.32 | 1.44 | 1.57 | 1.65 | 1.53 | 1.67 | 1.66 | 1.64 |
| Duke Energy Carolinas | 1.65 | 1.81 | 1.62 | 1.68 | 1.58 | 1.48 | 1.55 | 1.62 | 1.50 |
| PJM Interconnection, LLC | 1.65 | 1.62 | 1.48 | 0.85 | 0.91 | 1.30 | 1.38 | 1.54 | 1.35 |
| Duke Energy Florida, Inc. | 1.56 | 1.59 | 1.57 | 1.71 | 1.59 | 1.51 | 1.54 | 1.42 | 1.36 |
| Public Service Company of New Mexico | 1.51 | 0.95 | 1.25 | 1.49 | 1.42 | 1.38 | 1.36 | 1.50 | 1.62 |
| Tucson Electric Power | 1.48 | 1.33 | 1.32 | 1.33 | 1.50 | 1.46 | 1.45 | 1.48 | 1.59 |
| Western Area Power Administration - Rocky Mountain Region | 1.45 | 0.87 | 0.72 | 1.40 | 1.31 | 1.24 | 1.22 | 1.47 | 1.14 |
| Western Area Power Administration - Desert Southwest Region | 1.41 | 1.37 | 1.38 | 1.29 | 1.29 | 1.32 | 1.22 | 1.25 | 1.46 |
| Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company | 1.40 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.21 | 0.93 | 0.81 | 1.23 | 1.23 | 0.99 |
| Southern Company Services, Inc. - Trans | 1.36 | 1.55 | 1.25 | 1.27 | 1.34 | 1.38 | 1.23 | 1.29 | 1.26 |
| Nevada Power Company | 1.33 | 1.37 | 1.38 | 1.27 | 1.33 | 1.32 | 1.21 | 1.17 | 1.05 |
| Los Angeles Department of Water and Power | 1.23 | 1.22 | 1.17 | 1.19 | 1.21 | 1.07 | 1.20 | 1.25 | 1.35 |
| PacifiCorp West | 1.19 | 0.89 | 1.00 | 0.86 | 1.16 | 1.15 | 1.20 | 1.26 | 1.33 |
| Duke Energy Progress East | 1.17 | 1.08 | 1.00 | 1.01 | 1.17 | 1.10 | 1.16 | 1.18 | 1.09 |
| New York Independent System Operator | 1.17 | 1.15 | 1.23 | 1.16 | 1.10 | 1.11 | 1.16 | 1.17 | 0.96 |
| PacifiCorp East | 1.17 | 0.96 | 1.03 | 1.01 | 1.05 | 1.09 | 1.00 | 1.23 | 1.00 |
| South Carolina Public Service Authority | 1.16 | 1.19 | 1.19 | 1.15 | 1.18 | 1.20 | 1.17 | 1.09 | 1.03 |
| Florida Power & Light Co. | 1.05 | 1.18 | 1.16 | 0.87 | 0.89 | 0.90 | 0.95 | 1.07 | 1.00 |
| Arizona Public Service Company | 1.02 | 1.18 | 1.45 | 1.33 | 1.17 | 0.76 | 0.52 | 0.54 | 0.42 |
| Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. | 0.95 | 0.89 | 0.76 | 0.89 | 0.81 | 0.90 | 1.01 | 0.88 | 1.04 |
| ISO New England | 0.91 | 0.98 | 0.87 | 0.93 | 0.94 | 0.92 | 0.86 | 0.79 | 0.89 |
| Duke Energy Progress West | 0.90 | 0.95 | 0.96 | 0.95 | 0.75 | 0.64 | 0.87 | 0.96 | 0.74 |
| Florida Municipal Power Pool | 0.88 | 0.93 | 0.92 | 0.79 | 0.93 | 0.91 | 0.85 | 0.80 | 0.76 |
| Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington | 0.82 | 0.58 | 0.66 | 0.75 | 0.83 | 0.48 | 0.75 | 0.85 | 1.03 |
| Tampa Electric Company | 0.81 | 0.77 | 0.68 | 1.28 | 1.03 | 0.79 | 0.88 | 0.66 | 0.45 |
| Idaho Power Company | 0.77 | 0.82 | 0.84 | 0.87 | 0.64 | 1.02 | 0.56 | 0.76 | 0.56 |
| El Paso Electric Company | 0.74 | 0.76 | 0.74 | 0.64 | 0.62 | 0.48 | 0.68 | 0.79 | 0.62 |
| Avista Corporation | 0.73 | 0.60 | 0.56 | 0.62 | 0.71 | 0.57 | 0.83 | 0.81 | 0.99 |
| Tennessee Valley Authority | 0.66 | 0.62 | 0.78 | 0.75 | 0.71 | 0.65 | 0.60 | 0.47 | 0.59 |
| Balancing Authority of Northern California | 0.58 | 0.22 | 0.39 | 0.37 | 0.52 | 0.55 | 0.51 | 0.71 | 1.02 |
| PowerSouth Energy Cooperative | 0.36 | 0.25 | 0.21 | 0.16 | 0.31 | 0.54 | 0.41 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Puget Sound Energy, Inc. | 0.35 | 0.22 | 0.30 | 0.19 | 0.28 | 0.78 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.41 |
| Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. | 0.33 | 0.16 | 0.23 | 0.37 | 0.51 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.31 | 0.15 |
| Public Service Company of Colorado | 0.26 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.14 | 0.25 | 0.38 | 0.53 | 0.52 |
| Seattle City Light | 0.22 | 0.27 | 0.13 | 0.25 | 0.21 | 0.26 | 0.33 | 0.09 | 0.16 |
| Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. | 0.20 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.15 | 0.32 | 0.26 | 0.23 | 0.16 |
| Portland General Electric Company | 0.18 | 0.30 | 0.28 | 0.31 | 0.19 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.00 |
| JEA | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.18 |
| City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 |

Table Import reliance-diversity metric for U.S. BAs.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Total | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| California Independent System Operator | 0.45 | 0.48 | 0.45 | 0.47 | 0.43 | 0.49 | 0.48 | 0.42 | 0.27 |
| Tucson Electric Power | 0.44 | 0.51 | 0.53 | 0.32 | 0.42 | 0.47 | 0.41 | 0.44 | 0.35 |
| PacifiCorp West | 0.44 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.19 | 0.42 | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.77 | 1.00 |
| Duke Energy Progress West | 0.38 | 0.61 | 0.63 | 0.53 | 0.44 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.18 | 0.13 |
| Duke Energy Florida, Inc. | 0.37 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.44 | 0.40 | 0.38 | 0.35 | 0.28 | 0.33 |
| South Carolina Public Service Authority | 0.37 | 0.32 | 0.38 | 0.32 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.31 |
| El Paso Electric Company | 0.33 | 0.42 | 0.38 | 0.25 | 0.22 | 0.20 | 0.30 | 0.36 | 0.22 |
| Avista Corporation | 0.29 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.28 | 0.20 | 0.27 | 0.29 | 0.38 |
| Western Area Power Administration - Desert Southwest Region | 0.25 | 0.33 | 0.47 | 0.39 | 0.21 | 0.13 | 0.10 | 0.16 | 0.16 |
| Los Angeles Department of Water and Power | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.23 | 0.31 | 0.36 |
| Nevada Power Company | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.30 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.21 | 0.20 | 0.16 |
| Idaho Power Company | 0.22 | 0.26 | 0.18 | 0.20 | 0.14 | 0.28 | 0.19 | 0.30 | 0.15 |
| Puget Sound Energy, Inc. | 0.20 | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.23 | 0.29 | 0.32 | 0.28 |
| New York Independent System Operator | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.22 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 0.16 | 0.21 | 0.22 | 0.15 |
| Arizona Public Service Company | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.17 |
| ISO New England | 0.15 | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.14 | 0.11 | 0.12 |
| Balancing Authority of Northern California | 0.15 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.10 | 0.09 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.28 | 0.16 |
| Portland General Electric Company | 0.13 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.14 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. | 0.10 | 0.13 | 0.15 | 0.11 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
| Seattle City Light | 0.09 | 0.08 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.08 |
| Public Service Company of New Mexico | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.11 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.10 |
| PacifiCorp East | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 |
| Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.11 |
| Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company | 0.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.11 | 0.12 |
| Florida Municipal Power Pool | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.04 |
| Duke Energy Progress East | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.03 |
| Duke Energy Carolinas | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| JEA | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.06 |
| Florida Power & Light Co. | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Public Service Company of Colorado | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| Southwest Power Pool | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 |
| NorthWestern Corporation | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.06 |
| PowerSouth Energy Cooperative | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Tennessee Valley Authority | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 |
| Tampa Electric Company | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Bonneville Power Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| PJM Interconnection, LLC | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Southern Company Services, Inc. - Trans | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Western Area Power Administration - Rocky Mountain Region | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Table Import shares during high net load periods (>=p95) compared to import shares during all periods by US balancing authority, 2018-2023.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Average Import Share with High Net Load | | Average Import Share | | Difference |
| PacifiCorp West | 0.60 | 0.46 | | 0.14 | |
| Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. | 0.18 | 0.07 | | 0.11 | |
| Idaho Power Company | 0.39 | 0.29 | | 0.10 | |
| Arizona Public Service Company | 0.33 | 0.23 | | 0.10 | |
| Nevada Power Company | 0.27 | 0.17 | | 0.10 | |
| Tucson Electric Power | 0.36 | 0.27 | | 0.09 | |
| Avista Corporation | 0.45 | 0.37 | | 0.08 | |
| Public Service Company of New Mexico | 0.14 | 0.06 | | 0.08 | |
| Seattle City Light | 0.49 | 0.41 | | 0.08 | |
| Duke Energy Progress East | 0.08 | 0.04 | | 0.04 | |
| PacifiCorp East | 0.09 | 0.05 | | 0.04 | |
| Tennessee Valley Authority | 0.06 | 0.02 | | 0.04 | |
| Public Service Company of Colorado | 0.07 | 0.05 | | 0.02 | |
| Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. | 0.01 | 0.00 | | 0.01 | |
| Florida Power & Light Co. | 0.01 | 0.00 | | 0.01 | |
| NorthWestern Corporation | 0.02 | 0.01 | | 0.01 | |
| El Paso Electric Company | 0.41 | 0.4 | | 0.01 | |
| Balancing Authority of Northern California | 0.25 | 0.25 | | 0.00 | |
| Bonneville Power Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Duke Energy Carolinas | 0.01 | 0.01 | | 0.00 | |
| Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. | 0.06 | 0.06 | | 0.00 | |
| PJM Interconnection, LLC | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Southern Company Services, Inc. - Trans | 0.01 | 0.01 | | 0.00 | |
| Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Southwest Power Pool | 0.01 | 0.01 | | 0.00 | |
| Tampa Electric Company | 0.02 | 0.02 | | 0.00 | |
| Western Area Power Administration - Rocky Mountain Region | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company | 0.05 | 0.06 | | -0.01 | |
| Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. | 0.00 | 0.01 | | -0.01 | |
| Florida Municipal Power Pool | 0.03 | 0.04 | | -0.01 | |
| Duke Energy Florida, Inc. | 0.22 | 0.24 | | -0.02 | |
| Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington | 0.01 | 0.03 | | -0.02 | |
| Duke Energy Progress West | 0.31 | 0.33 | | -0.02 | |
| Portland General Electric Company | 0.69 | 0.71 | | -0.02 | |
| New York Independent System Operator | 0.14 | 0.17 | | -0.03 | |
| JEA | 0.24 | 0.27 | | -0.03 | |
| California Independent System Operator | 0.19 | 0.23 | | -0.04 | |
| ISO New England | 0.13 | 0.17 | | -0.04 | |
| Puget Sound Energy, Inc. | 0.59 | 0.63 | | -0.04 | |
| PowerSouth Energy Cooperative | 0.01 | 0.06 | | -0.05 | |
| South Carolina Public Service Authority | 0.27 | 0.34 | | -0.07 | |
| Los Angeles Department of Water and Power | 0.10 | 0.19 | | -0.09 | |
| Western Area Power Administration - Desert Southwest Region | 0.06 | 0.15 | | -0.09 | |
| City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division | 0.43 | 0.52 | | -0.09 | |

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1. The correlation coefficient between the import diversity metric and balancing authority average electricity demand across the sample period is 0.30. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)