

data are from Form EIA-923, "Power Plant Operations Report," and predecessor forms.

Approximate Heat Rates for Electricity

Electricity Net Generation, Coal. • 2001 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using fuel consumption and net generation data reported on Form EIA-923, "Power Plant Operations Report," and predecessor forms. The computation includes data for all electric utilities and electricity-only independent power producers using anthracite, bituminous coal, subbituminous coal, lignite, and beginning in 2002, waste coal and coal synfuel.

Electricity Net Generation, Natural Gas. • 2001 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using fuel consumption and net generation data reported on Form EIA-923, "Power Plant Operations Report," and predecessor forms. The computation includes data for all electric utilities and electricity-only independent power producers using natural gas and supplemental gaseous fuels.

Electricity Net Generation, Noncombustible Renewable Energy. There is no generally accepted practice for measuring the thermal conversion rates for power plants that generate electricity from hydro, geothermal, solar thermal, photovoltaic, and wind energy sources. Therefore, EIA calculates a rate factor that is equal to the annual average heat rate factor for fossil-fueled power plants in the United States (see "Electricity Net Generation, Total Fossil Fuels"). By using that factor it is possible to evaluate fossil fuel requirements for replacing those sources during periods of interruption, such as droughts. See Appendix E for more information.

Electricity Net Generation, Nuclear. • 1957–1984: Calculated annually by dividing the total heat content consumed in nuclear generating units by the total (net) electricity generated by nuclear generating units. The heat content and electricity generation were reported on Form FERC-1, "Annual Report of Major Electric Utilities, Licensees, and Others"; Form EIA-412, "Annual Report of Public

Electric Utilities"; and predecessor forms. For 1982, the factors were published in EIA, *Historical Plant Cost and Annual Production Expenses for Selected Electric Plants 1982*, page 215. For 1983 and 1984, the factors were published in EIA, *Electric Plant Cost and Power Production Expenses 1991*, Table 13. • 1985 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using the heat rate data reported on Form EIA-860, "Annual Electric Generator Report," and predecessor forms.

Electricity Net Generation, Petroleum. • 2001 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using fuel consumption and net generation data reported on Form EIA-923, "Power Plant Operations Report," and predecessor forms. The computation includes data for all electric utilities and electricity-only independent power producers using distillate fuel oil, residual fuel oil, jet fuel, kerosene, petroleum coke, and waste oil.

Electricity Net Generation, Total Fossil Fuels.

• 1949–1955: The weighted annual average heat rate for fossil-fueled steam-electric power plants in the United States, as published by EIA in *Thermal-Electric Plant Construction Cost and Annual Production Expenses—1981* and *Steam-Electric Plant Construction Cost and Annual Production Expenses—1978*. • 1956–1988: The weighted annual average heat rate for fossil-fueled steam-electric power plants in the United States, as published in EIA, *Electric Plant Cost and Power Production Expenses 1991*, Table 9. • 1989–2000: Calculated annually by EIA by using heat rate data reported on Form EIA-860, "Annual Electric Generator Report," and predecessor forms; and net generation data reported on Form EIA-759, "Monthly Power Plant Report." The computation includes data for all electric utility steam-electric plants using fossil fuels. • 2001 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using fuel consumption and net generation data reported on Form EIA-923, "Power Plant Operations Report," and predecessor forms. The computation includes data for all electric utilities and electricity-only independent power producers using coal, petroleum, natural gas, and other gases (blast furnace gas, propane gas, and other manufactured and waste gases derived from fossil fuels).