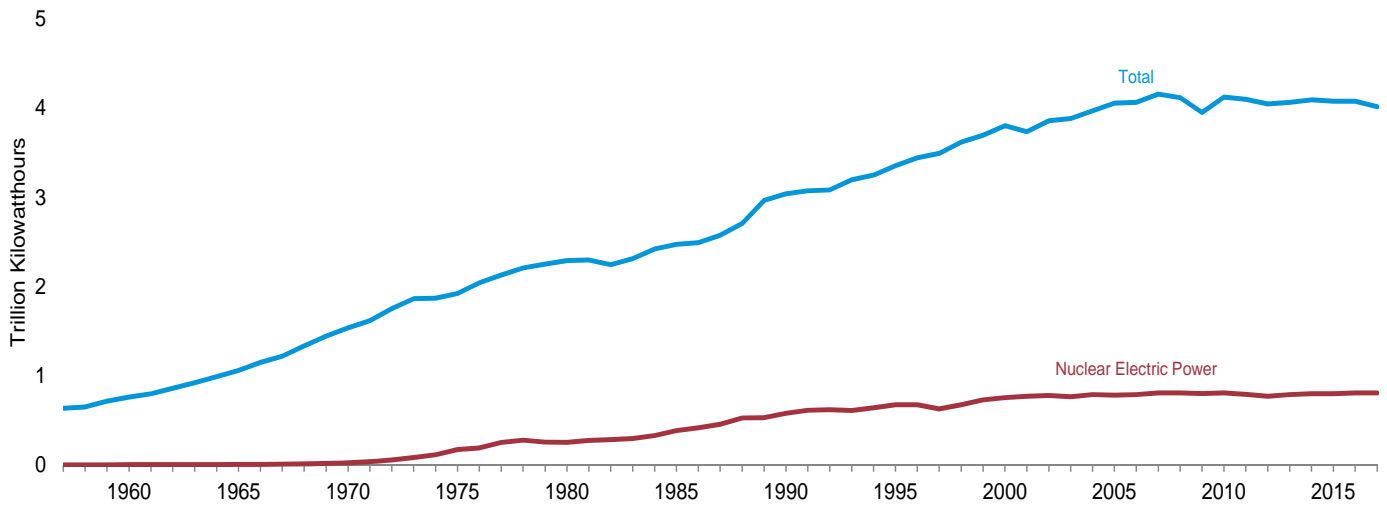


# 8. Nuclear Energy

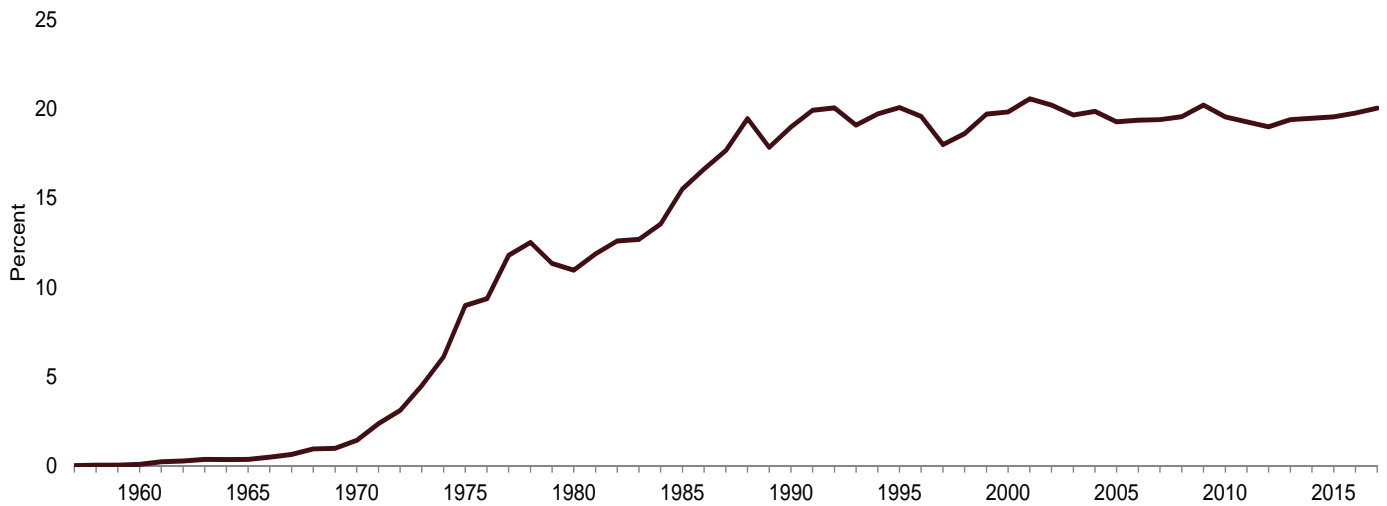
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### Figure 8.1 Nuclear Energy Overview

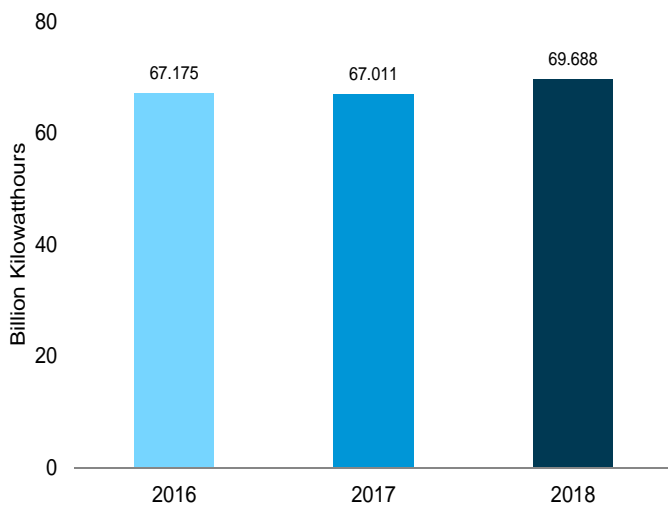
Electricity Net Generation, 1957–2017



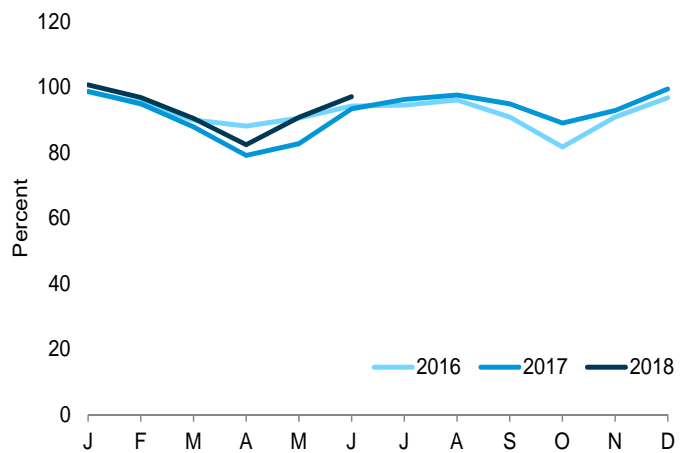
Nuclear Share of Electricity Net Generation, 1957–2017



Nuclear Electricity Net Generation—June



Capacity Factor, Monthly



Web Page: <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/#nuclear>.

Sources: Tables 7.2a and 8.1.

**Table 8.1 Nuclear Energy Overview**

	Total Operable Units <sup>a,b</sup>	Net Summer Capacity of Operable Units <sup>b,c</sup>	Nuclear Electricity Net Generation	Nuclear Share of Electricity Net Generation	Capacity Factor <sup>d</sup>
	Number	Million Kilowatts	Million Kilowatthours	Percent	
1957 Total	1	0.055	10	(s)	NA
1960 Total	3	.411	518	.1	NA
1965 Total	13	.793	3,657	.3	NA
1970 Total	20	7.004	21,804	1.4	NA
1975 Total	57	37.267	172,505	9.0	55.9
1980 Total	71	51.810	251,116	11.0	56.3
1985 Total	96	79.397	383,691	15.5	58.0
1990 Total	112	99.624	576,862	19.0	66.0
1995 Total	109	99.515	673,402	20.1	77.4
2000 Total	104	97.860	753,893	19.8	88.1
2001 Total	104	98.159	768,826	20.6	89.4
2002 Total	104	98.657	780,064	20.2	90.3
2003 Total	104	99.209	763,733	19.7	87.9
2004 Total	104	99.628	788,528	19.9	90.1
2005 Total	104	99.988	781,986	19.3	89.3
2006 Total	104	100.334	787,219	19.4	89.6
2007 Total	104	100.266	806,425	19.4	91.8
2008 Total	104	100.755	806,208	19.6	<sup>d</sup> 91.1
2009 Total	104	101.004	798,855	20.2	90.3
2010 Total	104	101.167	806,968	19.6	91.1
2011 Total	104	<sup>c</sup> 101.419	790,204	19.3	89.1
2012 Total	104	101.885	769,331	19.0	86.1
2013 Total	100	99.240	789,016	19.4	89.9
2014 Total	99	98.569	797,166	19.5	91.7
2015 Total	99	98.672	797,178	19.6	92.3
2016 January	99	98.921	72,525	20.6	98.5
February	99	98.921	65,638	20.9	95.3
March	99	98.921	66,149	21.7	89.9
April	99	98.921	62,732	21.4	88.1
May	99	98.921	66,576	21.0	90.5
June	99	100.043	67,175	18.3	94.2
July	100	100.043	70,349	17.1	94.5
August	100	100.043	71,526	17.5	96.1
September	100	100.043	65,448	18.6	90.9
October	99	99.565	60,733	19.4	81.7
November	99	99.565	65,179	21.9	90.9
December	99	99.565	71,662	20.8	96.7
Total	99	99.565	805,694	19.8	92.3
2017 January	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.616	73,121	21.4	<sup>E</sup> 98.7
February	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.616	63,560	21.9	<sup>E</sup> 94.9
March	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.616	65,093	20.3	<sup>E</sup> 87.8
April	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.616	56,743	19.3	<sup>E</sup> 79.1
May	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.616	61,313	19.1	<sup>E</sup> 82.7
June	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.616	67,011	18.8	<sup>E</sup> 93.4
July	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.635	71,314	17.8	<sup>E</sup> 96.2
August	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.635	72,384	18.9	<sup>E</sup> 97.6
September	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.635	68,098	20.4	<sup>E</sup> 94.9
October	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.635	65,995	20.7	<sup>E</sup> 89.0
November	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.635	66,618	21.7	<sup>E</sup> 92.9
December	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.635	73,700	21.3	<sup>E</sup> 99.4
Total	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.635	804,950	20.0	<sup>E</sup> 92.2
2018 January	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.630	74,649	20.0	<sup>E</sup> 100.7
February	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.642	64,790	21.1	<sup>E</sup> 96.8
March	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.642	67,033	21.0	<sup>E</sup> 90.4
April	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.642	59,087	19.6	<sup>E</sup> 82.4
May	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.629	67,320	19.9	<sup>E</sup> 90.8
June	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.629	69,688	18.8	<sup>E</sup> 97.1
6-Month Total	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.629	402,567	20.0	<sup>E</sup> 93.0
2017 6-Month Total	99	<sup>E</sup> 99.616	386,841	20.1	<sup>E</sup> 89.4
2016 6-Month Total	99	100.043	400,795	20.6	92.7

<sup>a</sup> Total of nuclear generating units holding full-power licenses, or equivalent permission to operate, at end of period. See Note 1, "Operable Nuclear Reactors," at end of section.

<sup>b</sup> At end of period.

<sup>c</sup> For the definition of "Net Summer Capacity," see Note 2, "Nuclear Capacity," at end of section. Beginning in 2011, monthly capacity values are estimated in two steps: 1) uprates and derates reported on Form EIA-860M are added to specific months; and 2) the difference between the resulting year-end capacity (from data reported on Form EIA-860M) and final capacity (reported on Form EIA-860) is allocated to the month of January.

<sup>d</sup> Beginning in 2008, capacity factor data are calculated using a new

methodology. For an explanation of the method of calculating the capacity factor, see Note 2, "Nuclear Capacity," at end of section.

<sup>E</sup>=Estimate. NA=Not available. (s)=Less than 0.05%.

Notes: • For a discussion of nuclear reactor unit coverage, see Note 1, "Operable Nuclear Reactors," at end of section. • Nuclear electricity net generation totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding. • Geographic coverage is the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Web Page: See <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/#nuclear> (Excel and CSV files) for all available annual data beginning in 1957 and monthly data beginning in 1973.

Sources: See end of section.

**Note 1. Operable Nuclear Reactors.** A reactor is defined as operable when it possesses a full-power license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or its predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, or equivalent permission to operate, at the end of the year or month shown. The definition includes units retaining full-power licenses during long, non-routine shutdowns that for a time rendered them unable to generate electricity.

**Note 2. Nuclear Capacity.** Nuclear generating units may have more than one type of net capacity rating, including the following:

(a) Net Summer Capacity—The steady hourly output that generating equipment is expected to supply to system load, exclusive of auxiliary power, as demonstrated by test at the time of summer peak demand. Auxiliary power of a typical nuclear power plant is about 5% of gross generation.

(b) Net Design Capacity or Net Design Electrical Rating (DER)—The nominal net electrical output of a unit, specified by the utility and used for plant design.

Through 2007, the monthly capacity factors are calculated as the monthly nuclear electricity net generation divided by the maximum possible nuclear electricity net generation for that month. The maximum possible nuclear electricity net generation is the number of hours in the month (assuming 24-hour days, with no adjustment for changes to or from Daylight Savings Time) multiplied by the net summer capacity of operable nuclear generating units at the end of the month. That fraction is then multiplied by 100 to obtain a percentage. Annual capacity factors are calculated as the annual nuclear electricity net generation divided by the annual maximum possible nuclear electricity net generation (the sum of the monthly values for maximum possible nuclear electricity net generation). For the methodology used to calculate capacity factors beginning in 2008, see U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Monthly*, Appendix C notes on “Average Capacity Factors.”

## Table 8.1 Sources

### *Total Operable Units and Net Summer Capacity of Operable Units*

1957–1982: Compiled from various sources, primarily U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Reactor Programs, “U.S. Central Station Nuclear Electric Generating Units: Significant Milestones.”

1983 forward: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Form EIA-860, “Annual Electric Generator Report,” and predecessor forms; Form EIA-860M, “Monthly Update to the Annual Electric Generator Report”; and monthly updates as appropriate. See <https://www.eia.gov/nuclear/generation/index.html> for a list of operable units.

### *Nuclear Electricity Net Generation and Nuclear Share of Electricity Net Generation*

1957 forward: Table 7.2a.

### *Capacity Factor*

1973–2007: Calculated by EIA using the method described above in Note 2.

2008 forward: EIA, Form EIA-860, “Annual Electric Generator Report”; Form EIA-860M, “Monthly Update to the Annual Electric Generator Report”; and Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report.”