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## Electricity Price Outlook for December 2021

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The Office of Technical and Regulatory Analysis presents the outlook for wholesale electricity prices each month. This assessment considers trends in electricity futures markets as well as *forecasted weather, economic growth, and input fuel prices*.

### ***Key Points in this Month's Outlook***

- On June 1, 2021, new Standard Offer Service ("SOS") electric rates took effect. Overall, residential customers will see an average bill increase of 5.3 percent, while small commercial customers will see an average bill increase of 4.0 percent.
- Plentiful natural gas in the PJM region has lowered wholesale electricity prices; however, this could change as natural gas prices are projected to rebound strongly in 2021. Natural gas now exceeds coal as a generation fuel source in the PJM region.
- Overall electricity consumption in the United States is projected to increase by 0.2 percent in 2022 after rising by 3.6 percent in 2021, as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The growth of electricity sales in 2022 will be led by industrial sales at 2.4 percent, which represents a slowdown from the 6.7 percent jump in 2021. Residential sales are expected to decline by 1.9 percent in 2022, based on expectations of mild weather next year. EIA forecasts commercial sector retail sales will increase by 1.0 percent in 2022.<sup>1</sup>

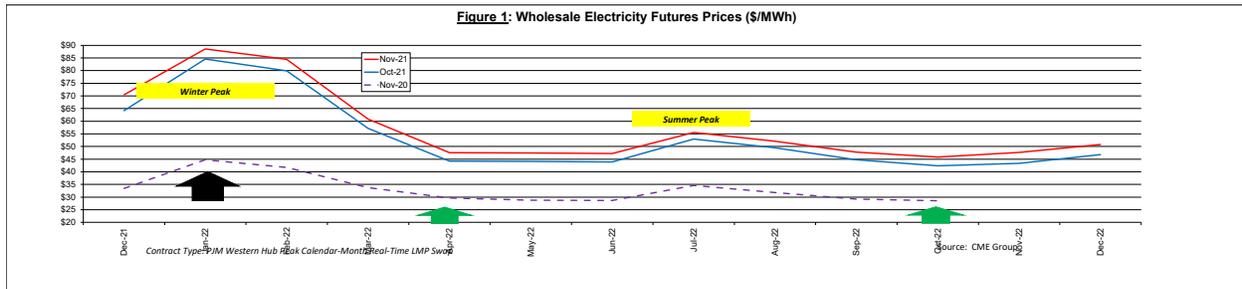
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<sup>1</sup> November 2021 Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) at Table 7b.

## Wholesale Electricity Futures Market

Contracts to deliver electricity in future months are traded for the multi-state region that is served by regional transmission operator PJM Interconnection. The PJM region includes the District of Columbia. Figure 1 below shows the futures contract “price strips” through July 2022 as settled on October 15, 2021, (blue line), and on November 16, 2021, (red line).<sup>2</sup>

Because electricity cannot be easily stored, the effect of seasonal temperature changes on the price of future delivery contracts stands out sharply, with yearly peaks in the hot summer months and cold winter ones. Wholesale prices rise to incentivize high-cost generators to turn on their power plants to meet the high demand for electricity to run air conditioning on hot summer days and heating systems on cold winter days.



In Figure 1 above, the red line shows trading values for futures contracts on November 16, 2021, revealing that price expectations for the next six months are above the previous month’s level. The dashed purple line shows the trading values for the “price strip” from one year ago (November 16, 2020). Futures prices have increased quite significantly since last year as investors anticipate a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic-induced economic slowdown. The trend of winter prices exceeding summer prices continues.

The green arrows (see Figure 1 above) point to the “shoulder months” April 2022 and October 2022. During these months, temperatures are moderate, and demand can be met from less expensive generation like nuclear and wind.

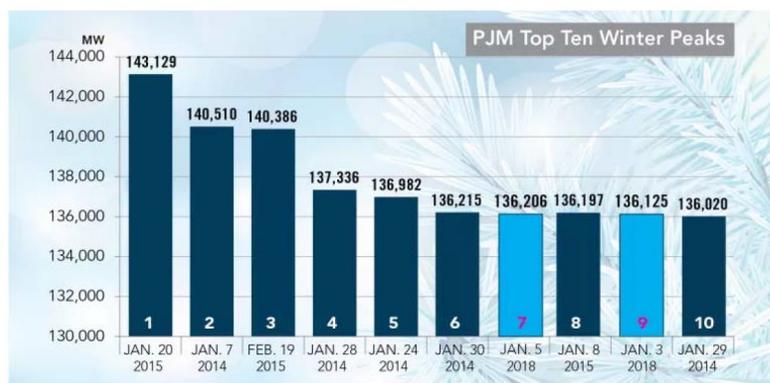
Investor anxiety over the unusually cold winter weather experienced during the “Polar Vortex” of January 2014 -- and other extreme cold events -- appears to have faded. In May 2014 -- just after the “Polar Vortex” event -- the price of a MWh for delivery in January 2015 closed at \$79.30. Investors’ fears about the risk of January generation

<sup>2</sup> See PJM Western Hub Peak Calendar-Month Real-Time LMP Swap Futures; CME Group.

outages have moderated and returned to pre-Polar Vortex levels. The most recent price for January 2022 delivery is \$88.60 – a 4.8 percent increase from the previous month and a 98 percent increase from one year ago.

PJM reports that the January 2014 cold-weather events resulted in an unusually high level of “forced outages” of generators serving the PJM system; this created a “shortage effect” that drove wholesale prices temporarily higher.<sup>3</sup>

Progress made by PJM in managing extreme winter peak demand was demonstrated during January 2018 when usage achieved levels within the “PJM Top Ten Winter Peaks” (see figure below). PJM President Andy Ott told the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on January 23, 2018, that “Preliminary data shows that overall forced outages during the peak demand hour of the recent cold snap were about half what they were during the Polar Vortex.”<sup>4</sup>



Jan. 5 Cold Weather Update

### Retail Residential Electricity Prices

The U.S. Energy Information Administration’s (EIA) *Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO)* reports that retail residential electricity prices are expected to increase by 3.6 percent in 2021 nationwide and by a further 3.6 percent in 2022.<sup>5</sup> Factors other than

<sup>3</sup> See PJM; “Generation Forced Outages for January 6-8, 2014”; <http://www.pjm.com/~media/documents/reports/20140109-january-2014-cold-weather-peaks-and-generator-outages.ashx>.

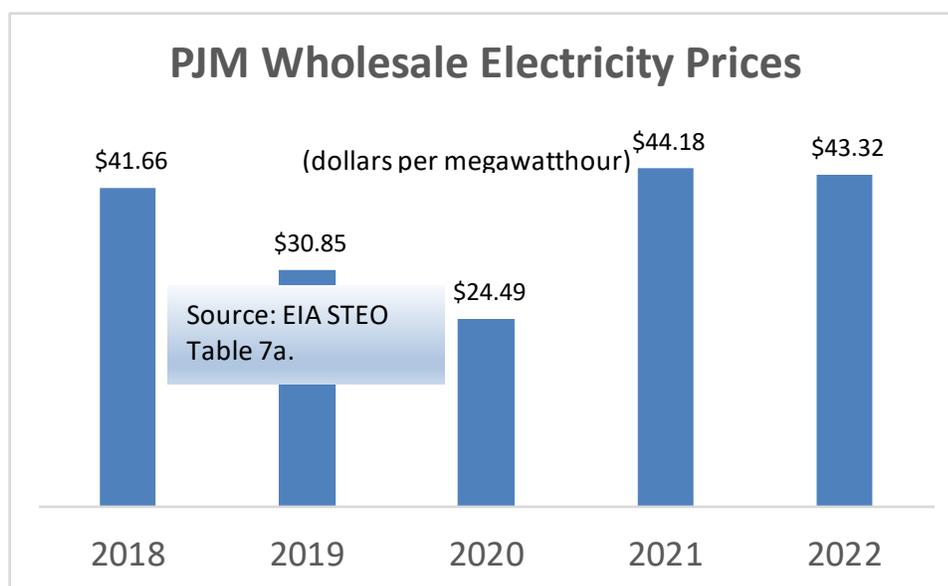
<sup>4</sup> <http://www.pjm.com/~media/library/reports-notice/special-reports/2018/20180123-testimony-andrew-ott-to-us-senate.ashx>.

<sup>5</sup> November 2021 *Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO)*; Table 7c; <http://205.254.135.24/forecasts/steo/>.

generation costs are included in the prices reported by EIA, including the costs of continued investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure.

On March 18, 2021, the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia approved the results of the annual competitive auction for new electric generation rates for default service, called Standard Offer Service or SOS, which went into effect on June 1, 2021. As a result of a competitive auction overseen by the Commission, on average, the rate for SOS (which consists of the generation and transmission price) for a residential customer will increase by about \$3.78 per month for the average user. On average, the rate for small commercial SOS customers will increase about \$8.45 per month for the average user. Overall, residential customers will see an average bill increase of 5.3 percent, while small commercial customers will see a bill increase of 4.0 percent.<sup>6</sup>

The figure below shows the overall trend of prices in the PJM wholesale market where SOS generation is sourced, including EIA’s projections for 2021 and 2022. EIA projects an increase of 80 percent for PJM wholesale prices in 2021 over 2020, followed by a two percent decline in 2022.



The following sections discuss some of the factors affecting this month’s outlook, including the three-month weather forecast, the overall economic outlook, and the prices of fuels used in power generation.

<sup>6</sup> Formal Case No. 1017; Order No. 20714; March 18, 2021.

## Weather Outlook

Sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean influence weather patterns across North America; these so-called *La Niña/El Niño* conditions are the primary factor in the three-month temperature outlook which, in turn, impacts investor expectations about future electricity prices.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's November 11th *El Niño* watch indicates that *La Niña* is likely to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2021-22 (~90% chance) and into spring 2022 (~50% chance during March-May).<sup>7</sup> NOAA notes that above-normal average temperatures are favored in the mid-Atlantic region through the December-January-February period.<sup>8</sup> NOAA also expects below-normal precipitation during the next three months in the mid-Atlantic region.

Heating-degree days measure the demand for heating during the winter. EIA reports that heating degree days in our region are projected to be eleven percent higher in 2022 than in 2021. Projected heating degree days for 2022 are projected to be the same as the ten-year average.<sup>9</sup>

Cooling-degree days measure the demand for air conditioning during the summer. EIA projects cooling-degree days in the Census region that includes the District of Columbia will be about 3.5 percent lower in 2022 than the ten-year average. The projection for 2022 is one percent fewer cooling-degree days than 2021.<sup>10</sup> The long-term warming trend continues.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory/ensodisc.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.html). "ENSO" means *El Niño Southern Oscillation*; "ENSO-neutral" means that neither *El Niño* nor *La Niña* conditions are present.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/fxus05.html>.

<sup>9</sup> STEO, Table 9c.

<sup>10</sup> STEO; Table 9c.

<sup>11</sup> NOAA National Centers for Environmental information, Climate at a Glance: National Time Series, published July 2021, retrieved on December 2, 2021 from <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/global/time-series>.

## ***Economic Growth and Electricity Consumption***

The outlook for economic activity in 2021 and 2022 is one of strong positive growth. Real (inflation-adjusted) gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 3.4 percent in 2020 and is projected to increase by 5.4 percent in 2021 and grow by a further 4.2 percent in 2022.<sup>12</sup> These figures reflect the expected rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic-induced economic slowdown along with the effects of economic stimulus policies which cannot be projected with certainty. Such strong economic growth is likely to impact electricity price trends positively.

EIA forecasts that nationwide residential electricity sales (measured in millions of kilowatt hours per day) will increase by 1.9 percent in 2021, followed by a 1.9 percent decrease in 2022. Nationwide electricity sales for all sectors will increase by 3.6 percent in 2021, with no further increase projected in 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## ***Fuel Prices***

In recent years, the cost of fuels for electricity generation has been restrained, except for petroleum-based fuels where the market remains volatile in both directions. This moderate trend was driven by historically low natural gas prices and moderate economic growth. *Following the economic dislocation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the cost of natural gas for generation -- which approached the \$2 level in 2020 -- is projected to rebound strongly to average over \$5.00 in 2021 before falling back in 2022.*<sup>14</sup>

### Petroleum

The outlook for international crude oil prices has improved recently along with growth expectations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>15</sup> Travel restrictions, an economic slowdown and a Saudi-Russia oil price war are factors that drove crude oil prices

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<sup>12</sup> STEO; Table 1.

<sup>13</sup> STEO; Table 7b.

<sup>14</sup> STEO, Table 7a.

<sup>15</sup> "Saudi Arabia Set to Raise Oil Output Amid Recovery in Prices," *Wall Street Journal*; February 17, 2021.

lower in 2020.<sup>16</sup> Recently, Saudi Arabia announced plans to raise its output based on expectations of increased demand for oil in 2021.<sup>17</sup> Spread of the “omicron” variant of COVID 19 has lowered the outlook for oil prices, but OPEC and Russia have announced they will stick with plans to raise output gradually.<sup>18</sup> EIA anticipates that demand will grow more slowly than supply resulting in an average price of \$72 per barrel in 2022.

EIA warns that the uncertainty in its energy price forecasts has increased significantly due to the pandemic conditions, particularly for petroleum. Brent crude oil spot prices averaged \$84 per barrel in October, up \$9 from September and up \$43 from October 2020. Brent crude is forecast to average \$82 per barrel in the fourth quarter of 2021 and decline to an average of \$72 per barrel in 2022.<sup>19</sup> EIA expects retail gasoline to average \$3.00 per gallon in 2021 and \$2.91 in 2022 (compared to \$2.18 per gallon in 2020).<sup>20</sup>

As a result of low oil prices in 2020, U.S. shale oil producers cut back on drilling which impacted domestic output of both crude oil and natural gas; shale production has recovered slowly in 2021. U.S. crude oil production averaged an estimated 11.4 million barrels per day in October, up from 10.7 million b/d in September as a result of production increases following disruptions from Hurricane Ida. EIA projects an average rate of production of 11.1 million barrels per day for all of 2021, as new projects in the Gulf of Mexico start production. In 2022, EIA projects production averaging 11.9 million b/d (which surpasses the pre-shale record of 9.6 million b/d in 1970).<sup>21</sup>

The latest *Monthly Drilling Productivity Report* from the EIA shows a drop in crude oil output and a decline in gas production in the U.S. shale-producing basins surveyed during 2020 (see Figure 3 below).<sup>22</sup> Output in shale regions depends on high rates of drilling activity which investors are no longer willing to finance as generously as they have in the

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<sup>16</sup> “U.S. oil prices plunge to lowest level in 18 years;” *Wall Street Journal*; March 18, 2020.

<sup>17</sup> “OPEC+’s Lose-Lose Equation;” *Wall Street Journal*; December 1, 2020.

<sup>18</sup> “OPEC, Russia Agree to Keep Boosting Oil Output, Jolting Prices,” *Wall Street Journal*; December 2, 2021.

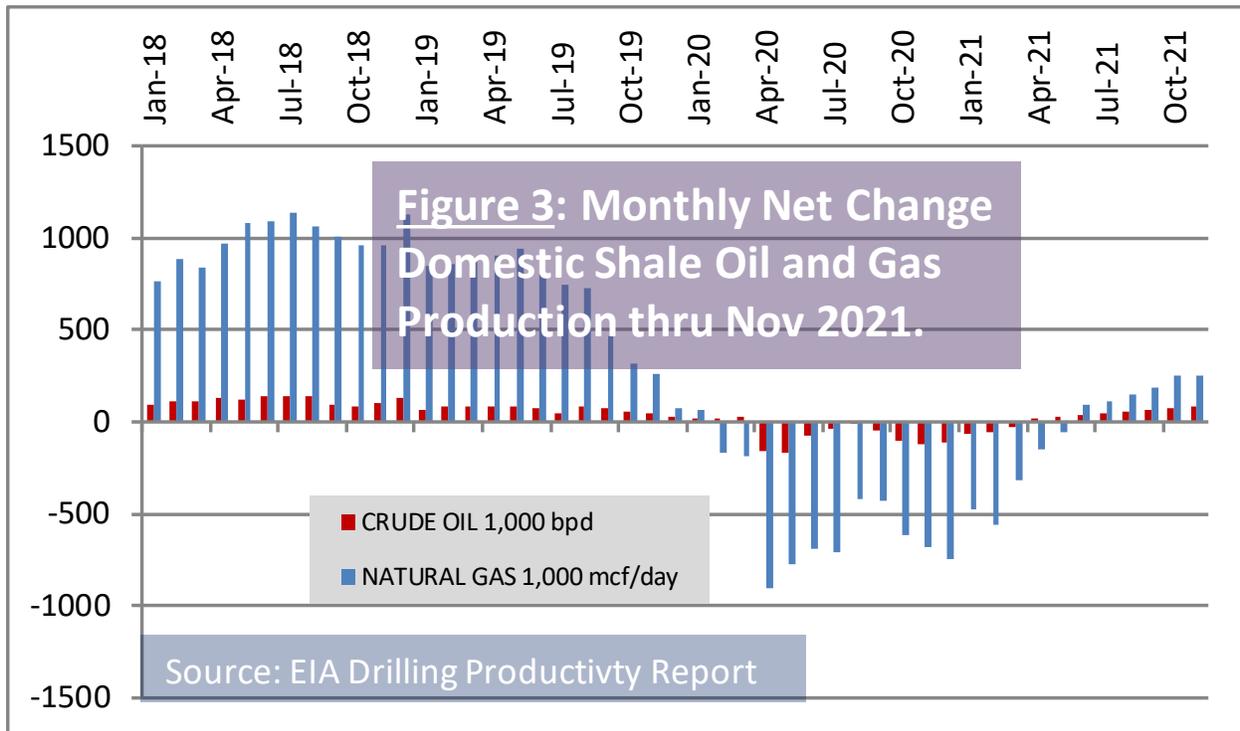
<sup>19</sup> STEO, page 1. The “North Sea Brent Crude” is the key contract for setting the price of crude oil in international markets.

<sup>20</sup> STEO, Table 2.

<sup>21</sup> STEO, page 2 and Table 4a.

<sup>22</sup> See EIA’s monthly *Drilling Productivity Report*; <http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/drilling/pdf/dpr-full.pdf>.

past; cutbacks were already visible in 2019.<sup>23</sup> Figure 3 illustrates how shale oil and gas producers struggled during 2020; an uncertain recovery in output continues in 2021.

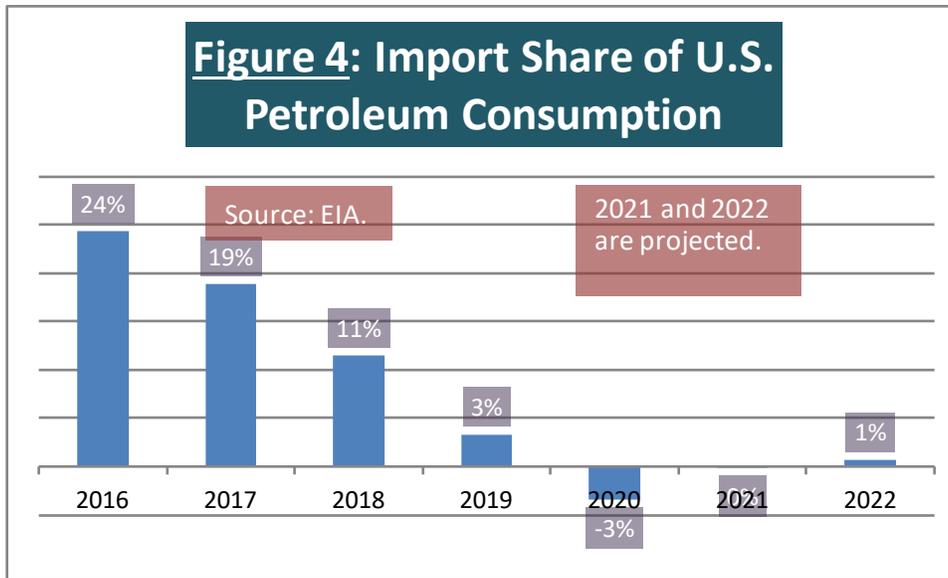


Net liquid fuel imports to the United States peaked at over 60 percent of domestic supply in 2005 and then fell to three percent in 2019 – the lowest level since 1970; this represented a major shift in the structure of world oil markets.<sup>24</sup> EIA reports the net import share fell below zero in 2020. However, EIA projects a reversal of this trend in 2021 and 2022, with net imports of petroleum increasing.<sup>25</sup> See Figure 4 below.

<sup>23</sup> “Schlumberger Plans U.S. Pullback as Shale Oil Drillers Struggle;” *Wall Street Journal*, January 17, 2020.

<sup>24</sup> STEO; Table 4a. *EIA Monthly Energy Report*; July 2018; Table 3.1; <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/pdf/mer.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> STEO, Table 4a.



Only time will tell whether rising domestic petroleum output will continue to moderate the price of crude oil. The pace of recovery of global demand will also be an important factor in the future course of prices which will be influenced by recovery from the pandemic around the world. Petroleum fuels supplied less than one percent of PJM generation during 2020.<sup>26</sup>

### Natural Gas

Natural gas prices are significantly below 2008 levels when the Henry Hub price averaged \$8.94 per one million British Thermal Units (MMBtu).<sup>27</sup> Recently, the spot price has headed in the direction of the lows reached in early 2012 when it briefly touched \$2 per MMBtu – EIA reports it fell below \$2.25 during the second quarter of 2020.<sup>28</sup>

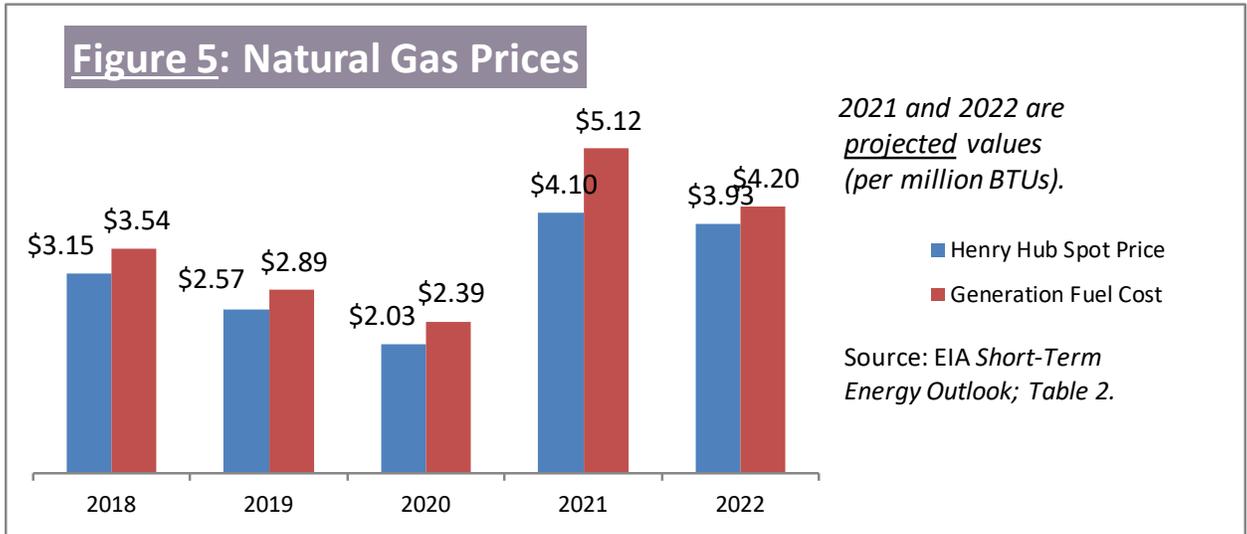
Natural gas prices in the spot market result from the interaction of trends in domestic production, growing gas-fired generation of electricity, and expected winter heating needs; expanding natural gas exports also may impact prices in the future. Record domestic production has offset rising exports and above-average usage. EIA expects Henry Hub spot prices to average \$4.10/MMBtu in 2021 and \$3.93 in 2022.<sup>29</sup> *Henry Hub natural gas prices are now projected to remain above 2018 levels through 2022.*

<sup>26</sup> STEO; Table 7d.

<sup>27</sup> EIA; 2011 *Annual Energy Outlook*; page 115.

<sup>28</sup> STEO; Table 2.

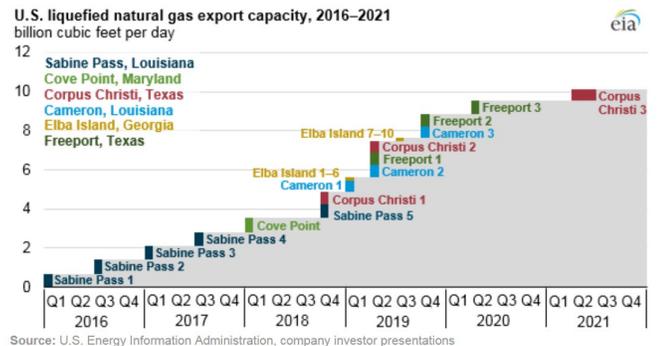
<sup>29</sup> STEO; page 2.



The Henry Hub spot price typically is more volatile than the cost of natural gas actually paid by electricity generators where long-term contracts and hedging are typically involved; 2021 was an exception. EIA reports that the cost of natural gas for power generation fell to \$2.39 during 2020 and rose to an annual average of \$5.12 in 2021 before falling to an average of \$4.20 in 2022.<sup>30</sup> The 2021 average reflects the impact of the extreme weather event in Texas during February.

EIA expects exports to grow faster than domestic production, which could eventually put modest upward pressure on natural-gas prices; EIA expects LNG export capacity to grow through 2021.<sup>31</sup>

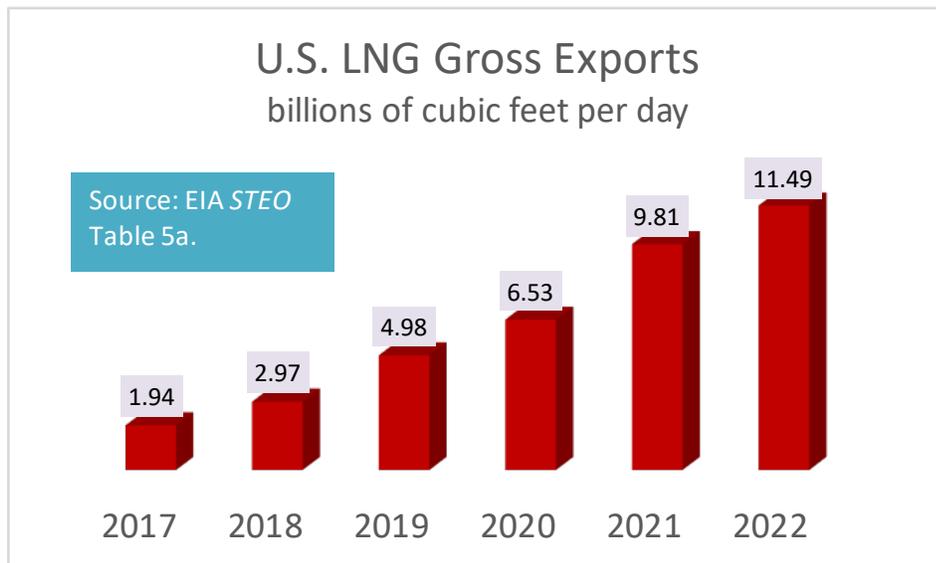
### U.S. liquefied natural gas export capacity to more than double by the end of 2019



<sup>30</sup> STEO; Table 7a.

<sup>31</sup> See Table 5a and <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=37732>. “Bcf/d” is billion cubic feet per day.

The gap between projections for LNG export capacity (above) and projected gross export amounts (below) shows that exports are catching up with new capacity.



The global LNG market is has been volatile in 2021, however, projected U.S. exports remain healthy. As shown above, the EIA expects the volume of exports to increase further in 2022.<sup>32</sup>

Regional variations in natural-gas prices also impact regional wholesale electricity markets like PJM – influenced by local gas production and the availability of gas pipeline transportation capacity. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that plentiful natural gas in the Appalachian region has fueled an expansion of gas-fired generation and depressed electricity prices in the PJM wholesale market.<sup>33</sup> This is confirmed in a brief analysis from EIA: *Natural-gas fired plants are being added and used more often within the region served by PJM Interconnection*. EIA explains that gas-fired capacity has been growing in the region and that gas-fired generation has a rising “capacity factor” which combine to increase megawatt hours generated by natural gas.<sup>34</sup>

The long-term impact of relatively inexpensive natural gas can be seen easily in PJM wholesale electricity price trends. “Figure 3-27” (below) shows the monthly and annual average load-weighted LMP for January 1999 through September 2021.<sup>35</sup> Annual average LMP has declined since natural-gas prices peaked in 2008. However, prices have recovered

<sup>32</sup> “Global Glut Keeps a Lid on Natural-Gas Prices;” *Wall Street Journal*; May 28, 2020.

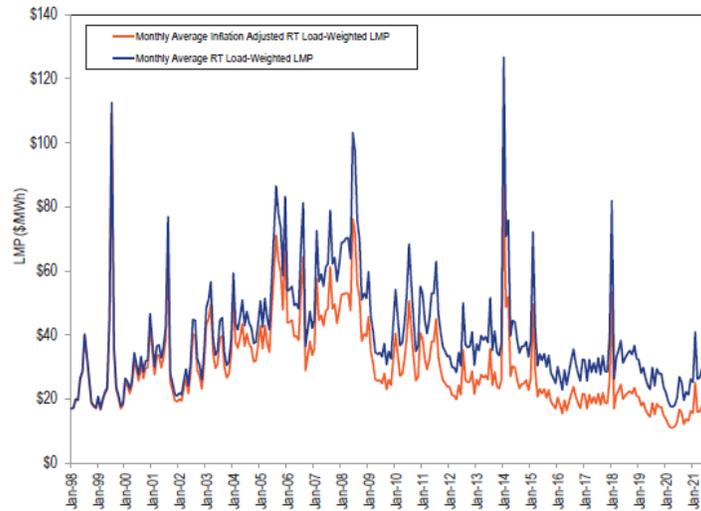
<sup>33</sup> “Power Plants Bloom Even as Electricity Prices Wilt,” *Wall Street Journal*, December 28, 2017.

<sup>34</sup> U.S. EIA; *Natural gas fired plants are being added and used more in PJM Interconnection*; October 17, 2018. <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=37293>.

<sup>35</sup> Independent Market Monitor; *Q3 2021 State of the Market Report for PJM (November 11, 2021)*; page 153. LMP means “locational marginal price” which refers to the price-setting methodology used in PJM’s wholesale electricity market.

since their recent low in 2020. (Note the January price spike in 2018, the result of extreme winter cold.)

Figure 3-27 Real-time, monthly, load-weighted average LMP unadjusted and adjusted for inflation: January 1998 through September 2021



Natural gas accounted for 40 percent of the PJM generation fuel mix during 2020 and is projected to decline to 38 percent in 2021.<sup>36</sup>

### Coal

Coal has been displaced by natural gas and renewables in electricity generation. Nationwide, coal consumption in electric power generation has not returned to the peak level of 2007. EIA now forecasts an increase in the coal share of electricity generation in PJM during 2021 as the shares generated by nuclear and natural gas are projected to fall (see figure below).

EIA estimates that coal production was 705.3 million short tons (MMst) in 2019, it fell by 24 percent to 535.3 MMst in 2020 and will increase by 9 percent to 582 MMst in 2021 as natural gas prices have rebounded.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>36</sup> STEO; Table 7d.

<sup>37</sup> STEO; Table 6. Historical data can be found at [http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/pdf/sec7\\_9.pdf](http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/pdf/sec7_9.pdf). See also The Brattle Group; Coal Plant Retirements: Feedback Effects on Wholesale Electricity Prices; November 2013; [http://www.brattle.com/system/news/pdfs/000/000/584/original/Coal\\_Plant\\_Retirements\\_-\\_Feedback\\_Effects\\_on\\_Wholesale\\_Electricity\\_Prices.pdf](http://www.brattle.com/system/news/pdfs/000/000/584/original/Coal_Plant_Retirements_-_Feedback_Effects_on_Wholesale_Electricity_Prices.pdf).

EIA reports that the delivered price of coal for power generation peaked at \$2.39 in 2011. EIA estimates the delivered price of coal averaged \$1.92 per MMBtu in 2020, and forecasts \$1.99 per MMBtu in 2021 and \$2.08 in 2022.<sup>38</sup>

In the PJM wholesale market that serves the District of Columbia, the cost of natural gas is a more important factor than coal in setting the overall level of wholesale market prices for electricity.<sup>39</sup> Coal represented 19 percent of the PJM generation fuel mix during 2020, coal's share is expected to rise to 23 percent in 2021 because of higher natural gas prices.<sup>40</sup> As noted above, the natural gas share of PJM generation has risen in line with national trends. Coal has fallen to third place behind nuclear and natural gas a share of the PJM fuel mix.

Across the United States, coal generation plants are being retired and new natural gas-fired generation plants are being built, mirroring trends in the PJM region. EIA projects that the natural gas share of electricity generation nationwide was 39 percent in 2020 and decrease to 36 percent in 2021. Coal's share of generation will rise from 20 percent in 2020 to 23 percent in 2021.<sup>41</sup> EIA's forecasted generation shares for coal and natural gas are very sensitive to the natural-gas price forecast: natural-gas prices have rebounded in 2021, as a result, coal's share of generation rose at the expense of natural gas.

### Renewables

Nationwide, EIA projects that all non-hydropower renewables accounted for 12.2 percent of electricity generation in 2020 and may reach 15.4 percent in 2022.<sup>42</sup> Wind generated more electricity than hydropower for the first time in 2019. Growth of renewables is largely driven by policies rather than the relative price of fuel inputs, since wind and solar have zero fuel costs.

Renewable Portfolio Standards ("RPS") enacted by many states are stimulating the rapid growth of solar in the PJM market. This stimulus will intensify as scheduled increases will raise the RPS for solar in coming years, as shown in "Table 8-14" below.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> STEO; Table 7a.

<sup>39</sup> EIA reports prices for coal as delivered under long-term contracts that are less volatile than the spot prices reported for other fossil fuels. See Table 6, STEO.

<sup>40</sup> STEO; Table 7d.

<sup>41</sup> STEO; Table 7d.

<sup>42</sup> STEO; Table 7d.

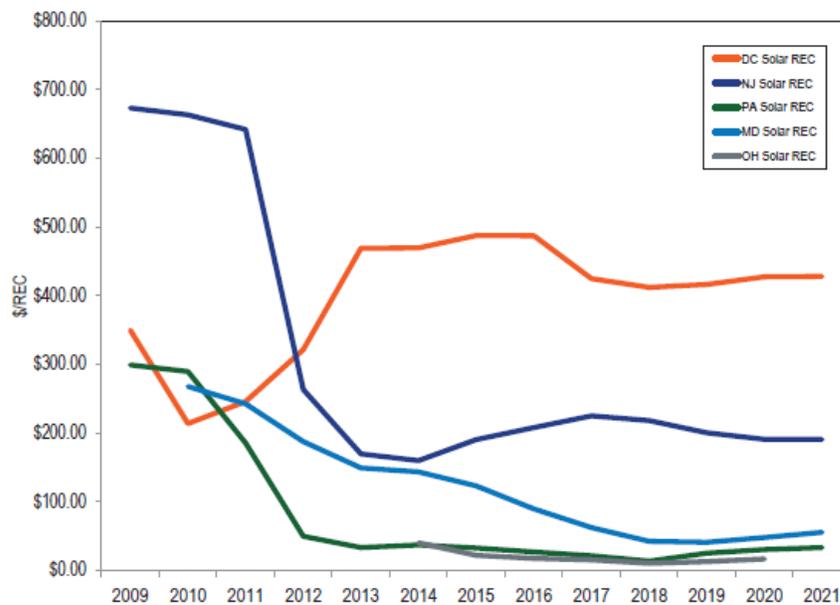
<sup>43</sup> Independent Market Monitor; 2021 Q3 *State of the Market Report for PJM* (November 11, 2021); page 418.

Table 8-14 Solar renewable standards by percent of electric load for PJM jurisdictions: 2021 to 2030<sup>175</sup>

Jurisdiction with RPS	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Delaware	2.50%	2.75%	3.00%	3.25%	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	5.00%
Illinois (RECs)	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	4,000,000
Maryland	7.50%	5.50%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%	8.00%	9.50%	11.00%	12.50%	14.50%
Michigan	No Minimum Solar Requirement									
New Jersey	5.10%	5.10%	4.90%	4.80%	4.50%	4.35%	3.74%	3.07%	2.21%	1.58%
North Carolina	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
Ohio	No Minimum Solar Requirement									
Pennsylvania	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
Washington, D.C.	2.50%	2.60%	2.85%	3.15%	3.45%	3.75%	4.10%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%
<b>Jurisdiction with Voluntary Standard</b>										
Indiana	No Minimum Solar Requirement									
Virginia	No Minimum Solar Requirement									
<b>Jurisdiction with No Standard</b>										
Kentucky	No Renewable Portfolio Standard									
Tennessee	No Renewable Portfolio Standard									
West Virginia	No Renewable Portfolio Standard									

Prices for Solar Renewable Energy Credits (“SRECs”) are much higher in the District of Columbia than in neighboring jurisdictions, as can be seen in “Figure 8-6” below.<sup>44</sup>

Figure 8-6 Average SREC price by jurisdiction: 2009 through September 2021

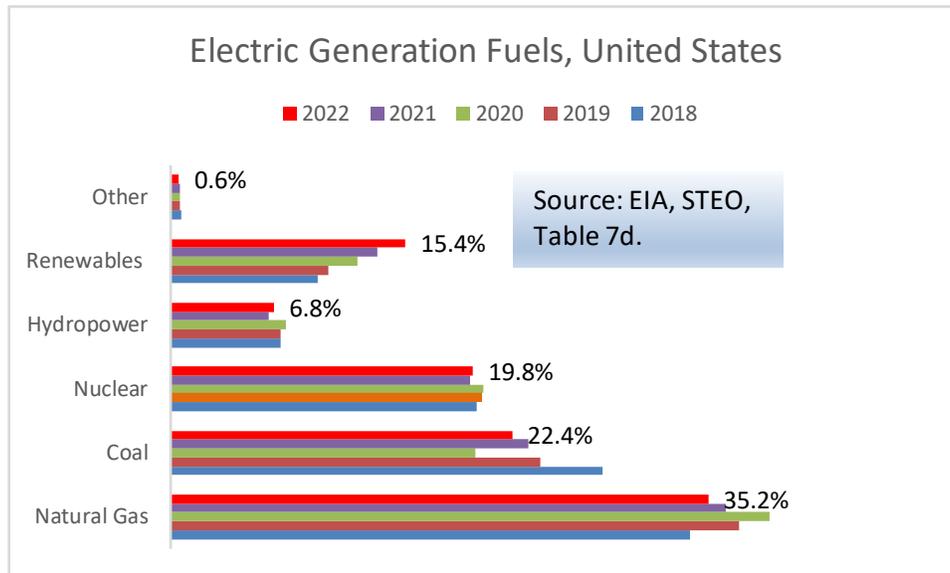


### Trends in Generation Fuel Mix

EIA’s monthly *Short-Term Energy Outlook* includes forecasts of the fuel sources for electricity generation (natural gas, nuclear, renewables, and so forth). Nationwide, the share generated from renewables is projected to increase. EIA expects an increase in coal’s share in 2021 because EIA is projecting natural gas prices to increase.

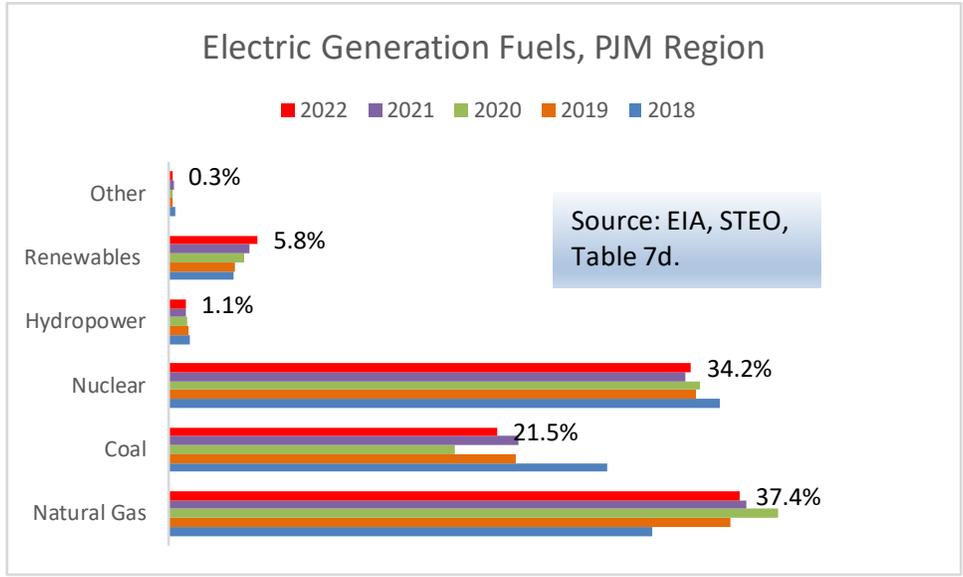
<sup>44</sup> Independent Market Monitor; 2021 Q3 *State of the Market Report for PJM* (November 11, 2021); page 419.

Conventional hydro is not adding capacity so its share remains relatively stable. Nuclear capacity is falling.



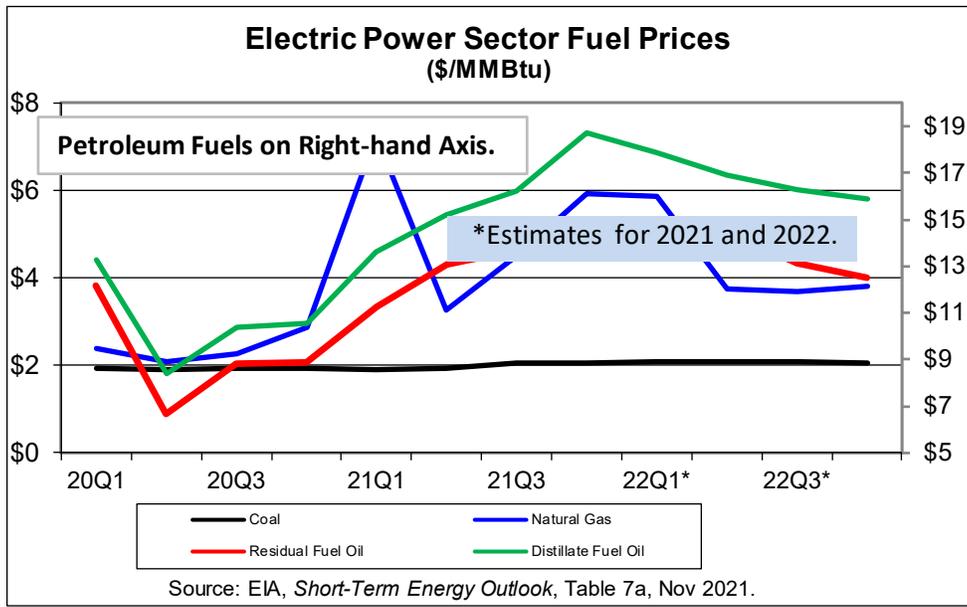
EIA provides the same information for individual wholesale market regions such as PJM (see below). PJM reflects the national trends with some differences.

- Renewables are a smaller share of the generation mix in the PJM region compared to the nation as a whole; their share is also growing more slowly in the PJM region.
- The natural-gas share is growing in PJM and is projected to be larger than the U.S.-wide share by 2022.
- Coal will be a smaller share of PJM generation than nationwide by 2021. However, coal's share is projected to grow as the nuclear share falls in 2021 and 2022.
- PJM has much less hydro capacity than the U.S. overall.

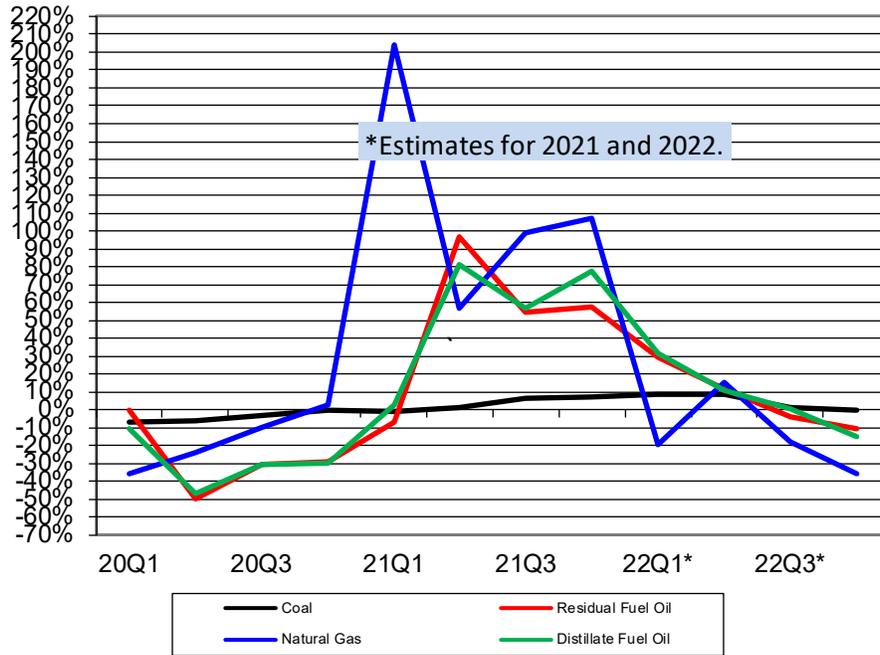


### Trends in Generation Fuel Prices

Nationwide trends in generation fuel prices are displayed in the figures below. The decline of natural-gas prices in 2020 was followed by a rebound in 2021 which stands out clearly.



### Electric Power Sector Fuel Prices (Percent Change, Year Ago)



.Source: EIA, Short-Term Energy Outlook, Table 7a, Nov 2021.

## Wholesale Electric Market Assessment Information

*Price of Electricity Futures Contracts for October and November 2021*

PJM Western Hub Peak Calendar-Month Real-Time LMP Futures<sup>45</sup>

\$/MWh (for \$/kWh, divide by 1000)

	<b>Oct-21</b>	<b>Nov-21</b>
<b>Dec-21</b>	\$ 64.20	\$ 70.40
<b>Jan-22</b>	\$ 84.53	\$ 88.60
<b>Feb-22</b>	\$ 79.88	\$ 84.40
<b>Mar-22</b>	\$ 57.18	\$ 60.85
<b>Apr-22</b>	\$ 44.15	\$ 47.50
<b>May-22</b>	\$ 44.05	\$ 47.40
<b>Jun-22</b>	\$ 43.93	\$ 47.20
<b>Jul-22</b>	\$ 52.90	\$ 55.55
<b>Aug-22</b>	\$ 49.53	\$ 52.05
<b>Sep-22</b>	\$ 44.73	\$ 47.75
<b>Oct-22</b>	\$ 42.35	\$ 45.80
<b>Nov-22</b>	\$ 43.30	\$ 47.60
<b>Dec-22</b>	\$ 46.83	\$ 50.80

The above are wholesale energy prices only. Transmission and distribution rates are not included.

### Weather Forecast

1. Current for next few days to one week:

<http://www.cnn.com/Weather/>

<http://home.accuweather.com/>

2. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Climate Prediction Center Outlook:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

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<sup>45</sup> <http://www.cmegroup.com/trading/energy/electricity/pjm-western-hub-peak-calendar-month-real-time-lmp.html>.