

# Electric power statistics, December 2015

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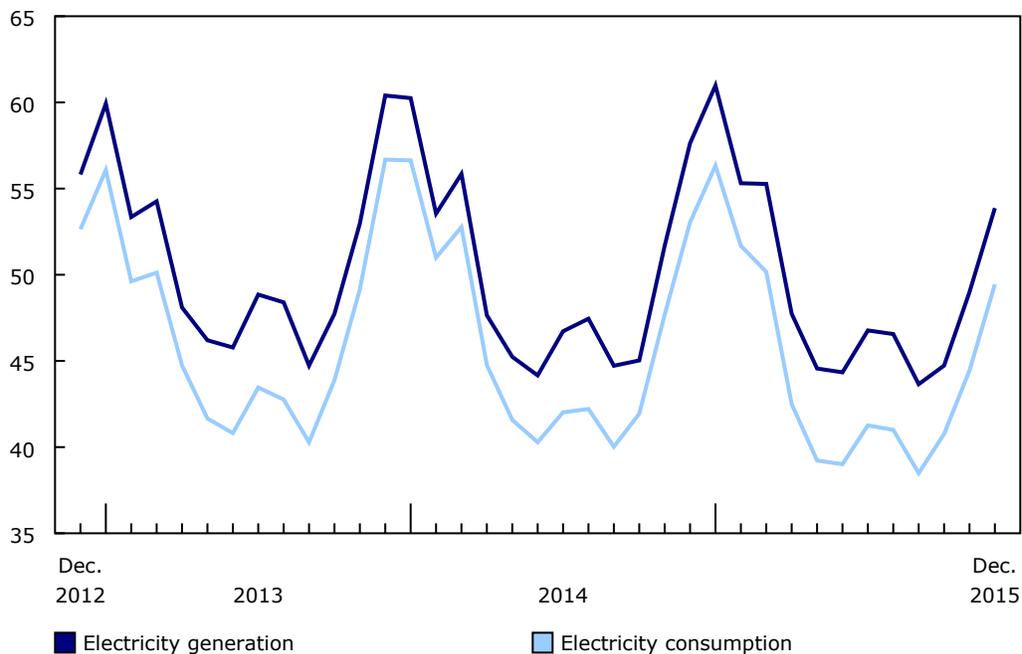
Canada's demand for electricity totalled 49.5 million megawatt hours (MWh) in December, down 6.8% from the same month in 2014. Unseasonably warm weather in most of the country contributed to the decline in demand.

Lower demand pushed generation down 6.5% to 53.9 million MWh, the lowest level for a month of December since 2003.

Exports of electricity to the United States also declined year over year in December, falling 3.1% to 5.2 million MWh. This was the first year-over-year decrease in exports of electricity since October 2014.

## Chart 1 Electricity generation and consumption

millions of megawatt hours



Source(s): CANSIM table [127-0003](#).

Much of the decline in exports was the result of lower shipments from Quebec and Ontario as eastern US states reported their warmest December temperatures in recorded history, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information. Exports from British Columbia tempered the decline, rising 34.4%.

Meanwhile, imports from the United States also decreased in December, totalling 0.8 million MWh.

Demand for electricity in Quebec was down 11.0% to 18.5 million MWh, the lowest level for a month of December in 14 years. Warmer weather contributed to the decline, as the province has a high proportion of electric heating. Similarly, generation levels within the province decreased 10.2% to 17.7 million MWh.

Alberta and Ontario also contributed significantly to the decline in national demand. In Alberta, demand fell 9.4% to 5.5 million MWh, contributing to a 9.9% decline in generation. Demand for electricity in Ontario decreased 4.9% to 10.9 million MWh.



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## Electricity generation down in 2015

On an annual basis, Canada generated 592.8 million MWh of electricity in 2015, down 1.2% from 2014. Five of the eight generation sources recorded lower output in 2015. However, hydro, internal combustion and solar generating stations all posted gains.

Demand for electricity declined 3.5% to 534.2 million MWh in 2015. Canada delivered 67.1 million MWh of electricity to the United States, up 14.1% from the previous year, while imports fell by nearly a third to 8.7 million MWh.

### Note to readers

*The purpose of this release is to produce a consistent monthly indicator of the supply of electricity in Canada, a key input in the calculation of monthly gross domestic product.*

***Total net electricity generation** for Canada, the provinces and the territories combines all of the electricity generated from all sources, including hydro, steam, nuclear, combustion, internal combustion, wind, solar and tidal.*

***Total available electricity** is the total electricity generation, minus deliveries, plus receipts of electricity.*

*All data on imports and exports are provided directly by the National Energy Board.*

*Data for January 2014 to November 2015 have been revised.*

**Available in CANSIM: tables [127-0002](#) and [127-0003](#).**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2151](#).**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).