

Today's Outlook Tutorial

Today's Outlook is not used by system operators to operate the ISO control area because it does not have the capability to represent real-time system operating conditions, nor is it intended for that purpose. The forecast values are based on the ISO's best information available at the time. Also be mindful of variations or inconsistencies in the data due to data quality or data transfer timing issues. Please refer to the California ISO Open Access Same-time Information System (OASIS) site at <http://oasis.caiso.com> for official published information.

Explanation of graph and tables on Today's Outlook

Graph /Table:

Demand Forecast: This forecast is performed each hour prior to the hour ahead scheduling process and is based on historical and current system loads and temperatures. This trend represents in megawatts the expected system load for each hour of the day.

Weather data from the following NOAA National Weather Service stations is used in the energy use forecast.

Station Call Sign

- KACV
- KBFL
- KCCR
- KCQT
- KDAG
- KFAT
- KFUL
- KIPL
- KLVK
- KMCE
- KMYV
- KNKX
- KOAK
- KOKB
- KONT
- KPRB
- KPSP
- KRAL
- KRDD
- KRIV
- KRNM
- KSAN
- KSCK
- KSFO
- KSIY
- KSJC
- KSTS
- KSUU
- KVNY
- KWJF

Additional information about the weather stations is available at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/stationlocator.html>

Actual Demand: Today's actual system load trend, updated every ten minutes.

Available Resources Forecast: Comprised of available capacity from on- and off-line: thermal generation, hydro-electric generation, peaker generation (fast start), non-participating generators, wind generation, municipal generation and the ISO control area net scheduled interchange. The operating reserve requirement is not included in the in the forecast because when actual load exceeds the forecast, the ISO uses operating reserve capacity to meet system demand.

The green "Available Resources Forecast" graph line on Today's Outlook may change throughout the operating day as some power plants come on line and others go off line. The graph does not include power plants that need more than an hour to begin producing electricity.

Example 1:

- A generator that takes six hours to start up is currently off line.

- It is not included in the “Available Resources Forecast” graph line.
- At 7:00 a.m., the ISO calls on that generator to be ready to produce energy for the afternoon peak.
- In six hours, at 1:00 p.m., the power plant reports it is ready.
- It is now included in the “Available Resources Forecast” graph line.

Example 2:

- A small 50-megawatt peaking power plant is currently not running.
- It has a 10-minute start time.
- It is included in the “Available Resources Forecast” graph line because it can produce power on very short notice.

Example 3:

- A 500-megawatt power plant is on line and running at half of its capacity.
- It can ramp up the other half very quickly.
- All 500 megawatts are considered Available Resources.
- At noon, a mechanical problem forces the plant to cut its capacity by half.
- Now only 250 megawatts from the plant are included in the Available Resources graph.
- By 2:00 p.m., the unit operators inform the ISO the plant must shut down to make repairs.
- None of the capacity is considered available.

Please note: If there is a loss of supply large enough to force the ISO into a state of emergency, the available capacity forecast may not reflect that loss until manually updated.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All trend and tabular values are updated every 10 minutes. Please refresh your screen periodically as this page does not refresh automatically. Automating Access to California Independent System Operator System Status Information:

If you are interested in re-publishing California Independent System Operator system status information you can access a comma-separated value (CSV) file at: <http://www.caiso.com/outlook/systemstatuscsv.html> details.