



electricity is essentially an exchange of power, with Canada importing electricity during peak load periods in the winter.

13.5.2 Generating capacity

Power generating capability is the measurement of the available generating resources of all hydro and thermal facilities at the time of the one-hour firm peak load for each reporting company and is not equal to the installed capacity of such generating facilities. Electric energy generated in Canada during 1973 was equivalent to 55.3% of the amount which in theory could be generated if the total installed capacity at the end of the year were operating continuously. The balance reflects fluctuations in load below peak demand during daily and seasonal cycles together with reserves of generating capacity.

Total generating capability has grown at a rapid rate especially in the past few decades. The annual rate of increase was 7.9% in the period 1963-73 and 9.4% in the period 1969-73. In comparison, the forecast rate of growth for the years 1974-78 is 6.2%; thermal generating capability is expected to grow at an average rate of nearly 10% a year in the forecast period compared with 12.6% in the period 1963-73, and hydro-electric capability is expected to