

Gross & net load peaks

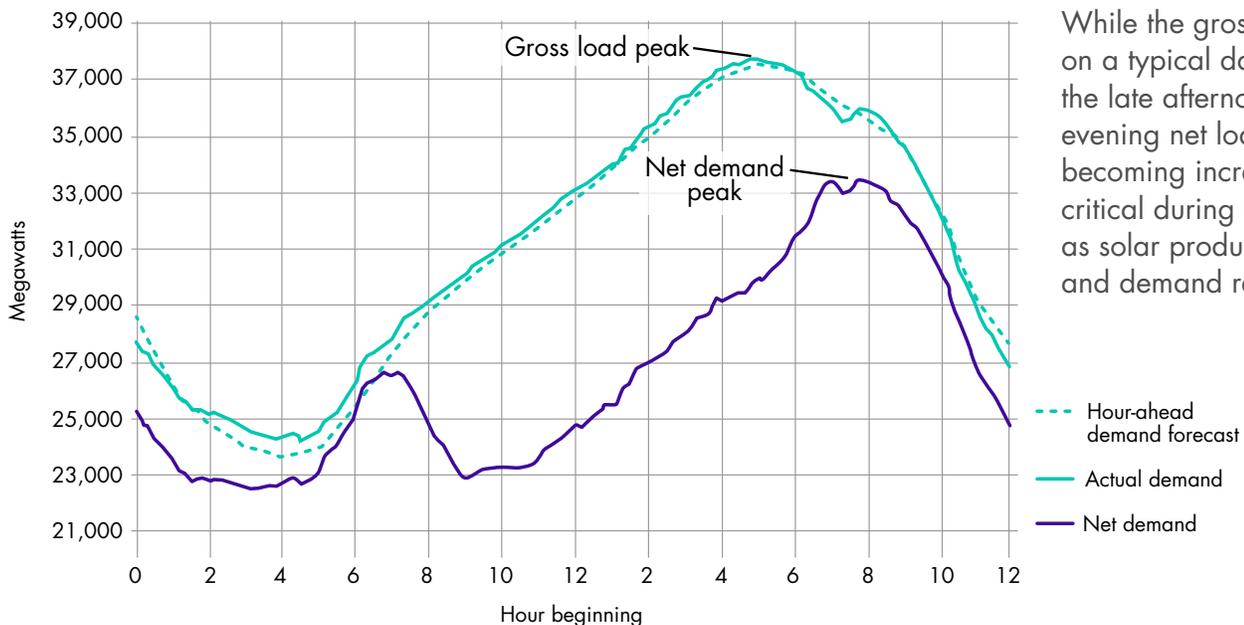
The transition toward higher levels of renewable energy resources has created a net load peak in the energy system, when demand for electricity remains high but the ability to reliably serve load drops because solar—the largest renewable resource—is declining.

The gross peak load represents the total energy required by the ISO to serve demand at its highest level of the day. The net peak load represents the total energy demand, but subtracts the wind and solar resource forecast from the gross peak load to show the variance between demand and the amount of resources available later in the afternoon when renewable resources are no longer generating.

The electricity grid’s gross peak load occurs in late afternoon when consumers’ demand for energy increases. But during high heat events, solar production is often declining when temperatures are still hot, which means that the critical time for the grid can occur after sunset.

To close the gap during this most critical period for the grid, the ISO must find other resources, including imports, to meet demand no longer being served by solar resources.

For more information about near-term market and operational activities, please go to [Market Enhancements for Summer 2021 Readiness](#) and [Phase 1 of the Resource Adequacy Enhancements](#).



While the gross load peak on a typical day occurs in the late afternoon, the early evening net load peak is becoming increasingly critical during hot weather, as solar production ends and demand remains high.