

Covid 19 corollaries

May 13, 2020

Volt-face in the corridors of power

Electricity demand shrank nearly a quarter in April 2020 as commercial and industrial activity switched off majorly following the nationwide lockdown.

For states with ample skin in manufacturing – such as Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu – demand dimmed a significant 30-50%.

Put another way, that is like experiencing a total blackout every alternate or third day!

The upshot? Power demand growth, which was already feeble last fiscal, could trip to de-growth this fiscal.

That said, there was some offset because about 1.4 billion people stayed at home, of which millions also worked from home, leading to a surge in domestic electricity consumption via more recharging of devices, more videos streamed, more online content consumed, and more cooking at home (often involving use of electrical appliances).

That cushioned the slack-demand blow for Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Haryana in particular, which have a substantial domestic-consumer base.

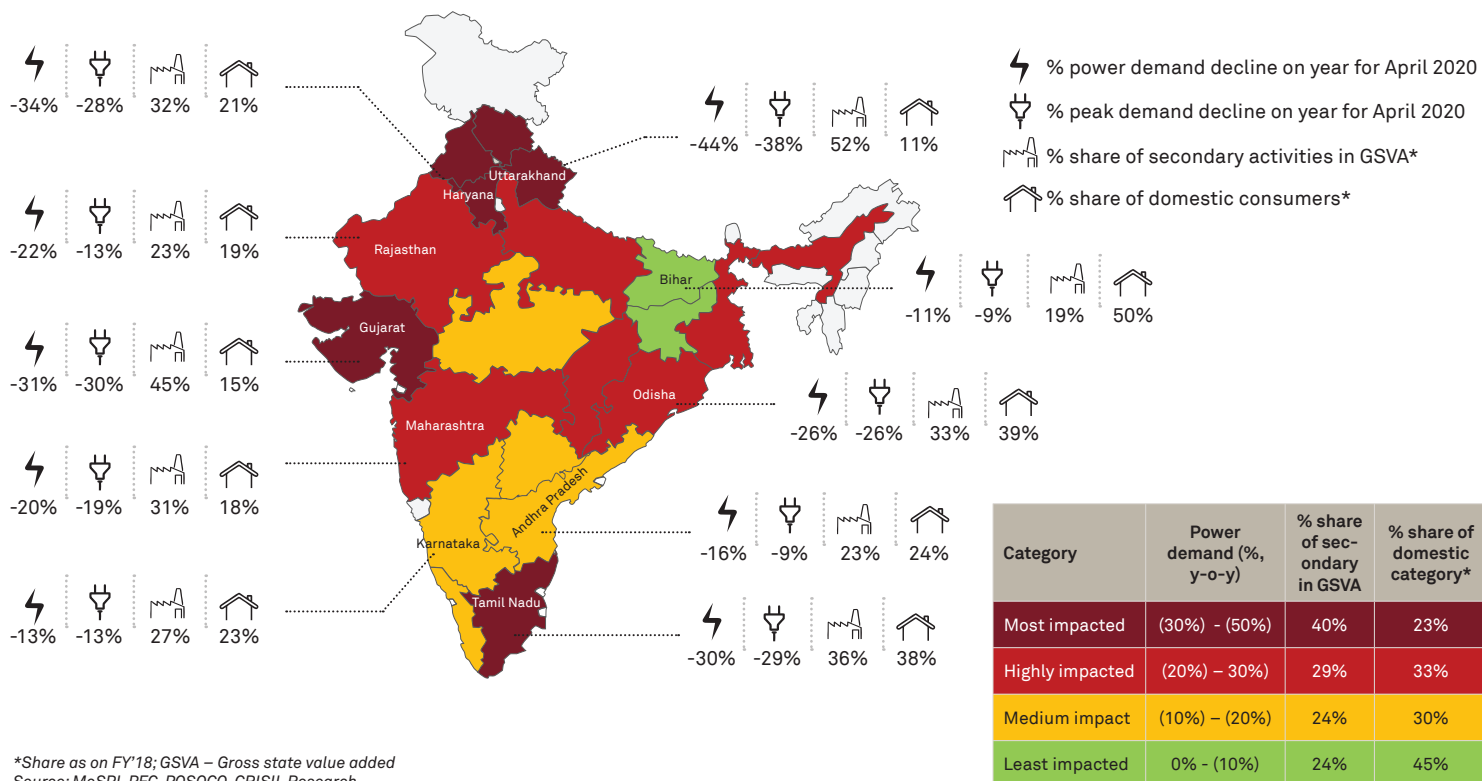
Lower demand from industrial users, who pay the highest tariffs and cross-subsidise domestic and agricultural users, would hit the revenues of discoms.

Sector recovery will be a function of how quickly economic activity replugs, reboots and resurges.

State-wise assessment of power demand

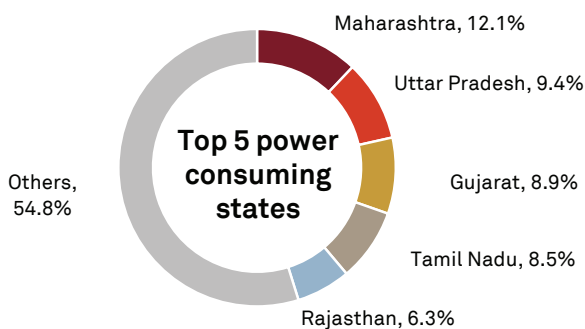
Top 20 states accounting for ~95% of power demand hit hard by lockdown

Top five power consuming states see demand falling by a quarter on average in April

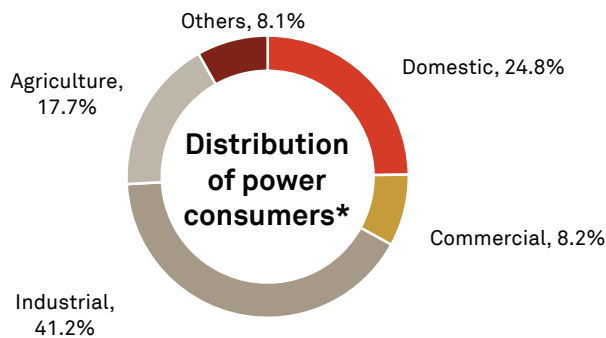


*Share as on FY'18; GSDVA – Gross state value added
Source: MoSPI, PFC, POSOCO, CRISIL Research

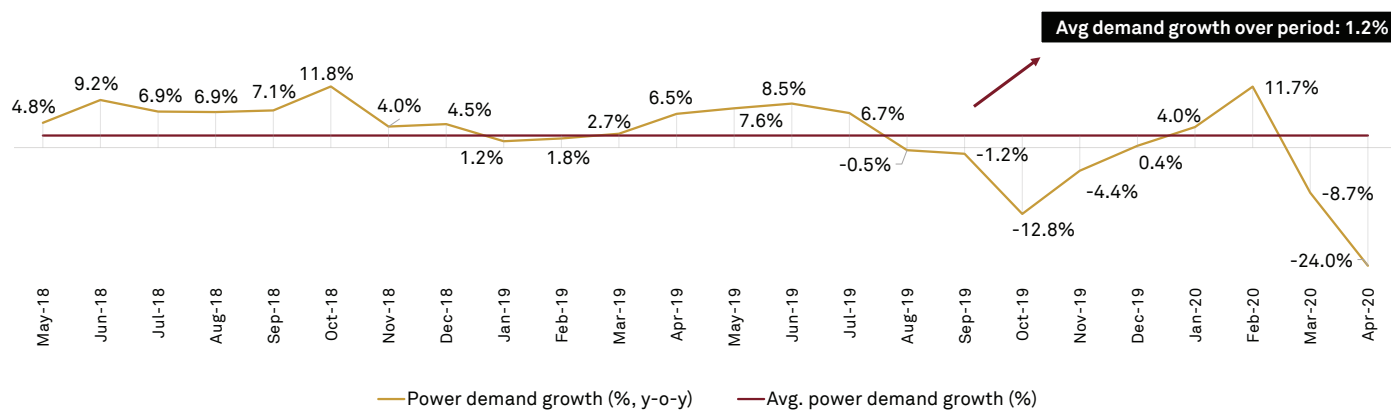
Pan-India power demand growth in the past 24 months



Source: CEA, CRISIL Research



*Data for fiscal 2019
Source: CEA, CRISIL Research



Note: April 2020 are provisional numbers
Source: CEA, POSOCO, CRISIL Research

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