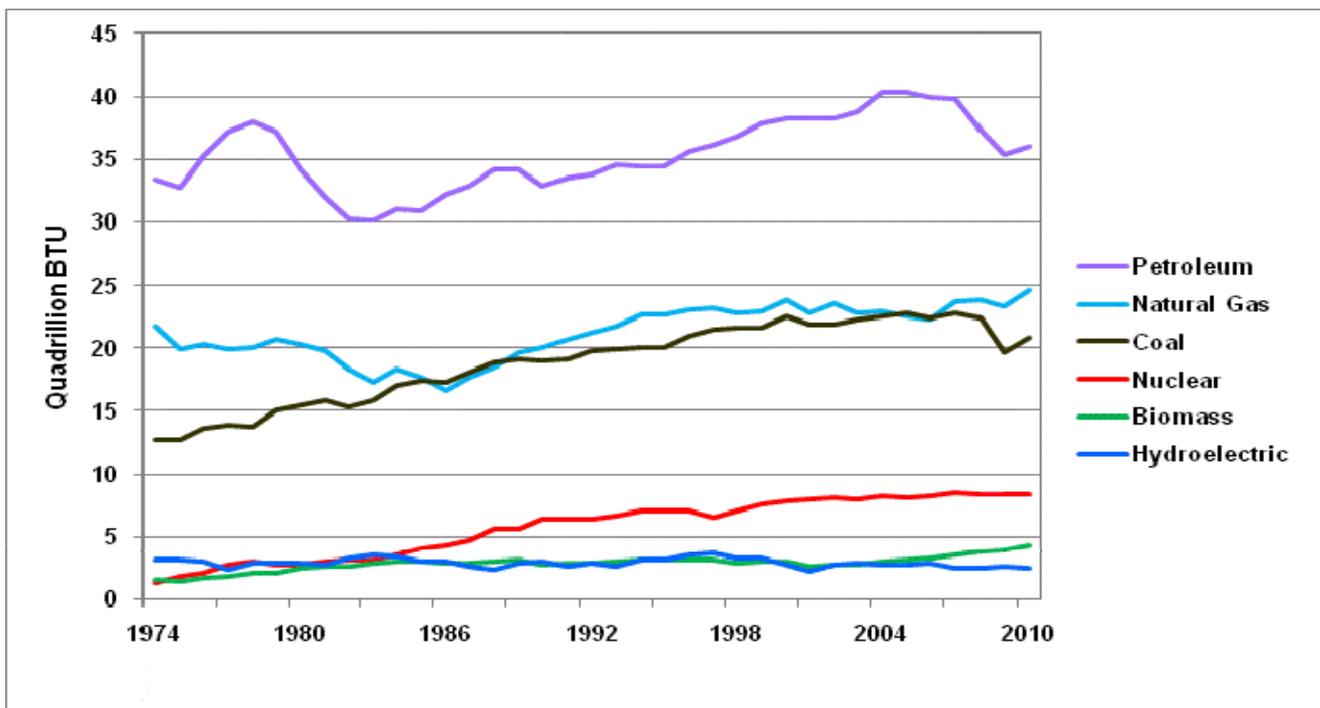


A variety of biomass feedstocks are currently used to generate electricity, produce heat, and liquid transportation fuels. According to EIA, biomass contributes nearly 4.3 quadrillion Btu (British thermal unit) and accounts for more than 4% of total U.S. primary energy consumption. In 2009, the share of biomass in total U.S. energy consumption exceeded 4% for the first time. Over the last 30 years, the share of biomass in total primary energy consumption has averaged less than 3.5%. However, as shown in the figure below there has been a gradual increase in biomass consumption that started in the early 2000s. This increase is due to ethanol production. The EIA estimates include the energy content of the biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel) feedstock minus the energy content of liquid fuel produced.

Section: INTRODUCTION
Primary Energy Consumption by Major Fuel Source, 1974 - 2010



Source:
 U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, July 2011, Washington, D.C., Table 1.3.
<http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/>