

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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**AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA—
APRIL 2012**

Los Angeles area consumers paid more than the U.S. city average for electricity (60.6 percent) and gasoline (7.1 percent), but less for utility (piped) gas (-7.2 percent) in April 2012, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted the percent differential between area and national gasoline prices narrowed as prices rose slower in the Los Angeles area than nationwide. The gap between area and national utility (piped) gas prices widened as local prices fell faster than the U.S. average. (See table A.) (All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

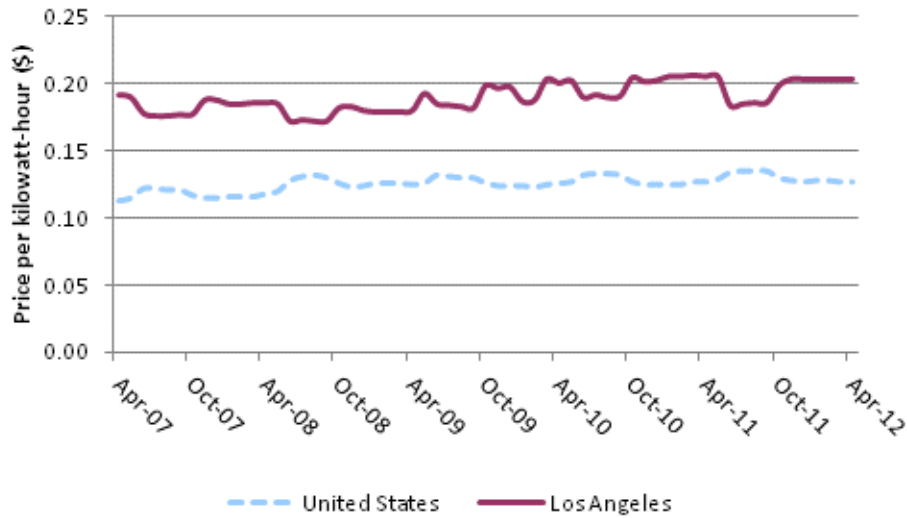
Table A. Average prices for energy products, United States and Los Angeles area, April 2011 and April 2012

	April 2011			April 2012		
	United States	Los Angeles	Percent Difference	United States	Los Angeles	Percent Difference
Electricity (per KWH)	\$0.127	\$0.206	62.2	\$0.127	\$0.204	60.6
Utility (piped) gas per therm	1.078	1.085	0.6	0.951	0.883	-7.2
Gasoline per gallon	3.863	4.200	8.7	3.976	4.257	7.1

NOTE: A positive percent difference measures how much the price in the Los Angeles area is above the national price, while a negative difference reflects a lower price in the Los Angeles area.

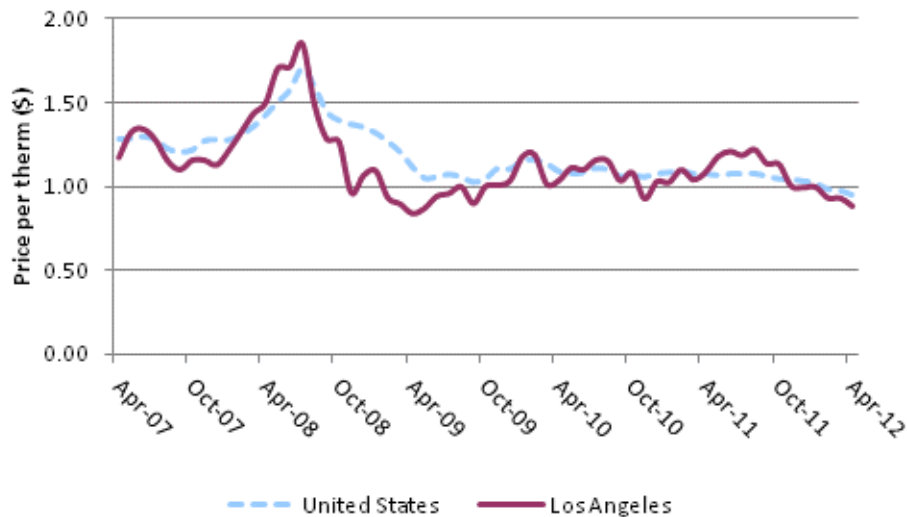
A kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity cost Los Angeles area consumers \$0.204 in April 2012, little changed from one year earlier. Nationwide, electricity prices averaged \$0.127 in April 2012, the same as the previous year. For the past five years, electricity prices in the Los Angeles area have been consistently above the national average and ranged from at least 30.0 percent to over 75.0 percent higher. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

Chart 1. Average prices for electricity, United States and the Los Angeles area, April 2007 - April 2012



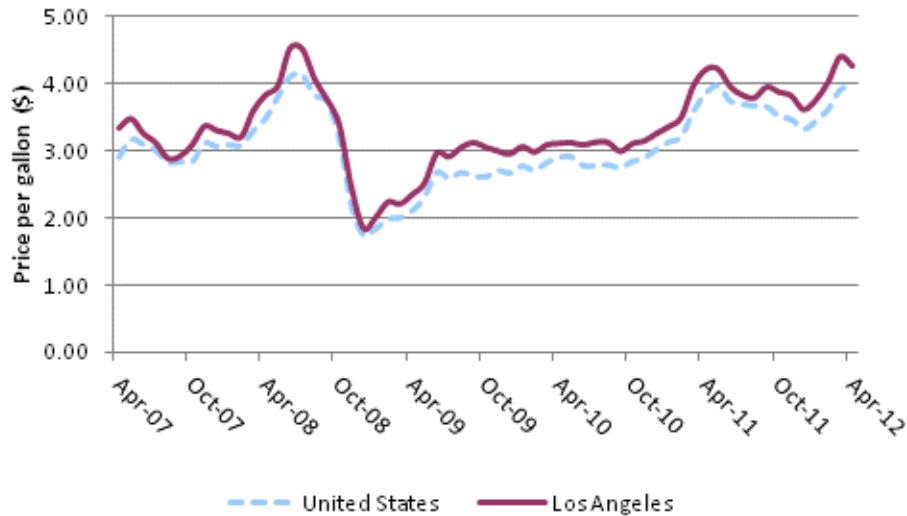
A therm—a measure of constant heating value—of utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, averaged \$0.883 in the Los Angeles area in April 2012, a decrease of 18.6 percent from the previous April. Nationwide, a therm averaged \$0.951 in April 2012, down 11.8 percent over the year. (See chart 2.)

Chart 2. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, United States and the Los Angeles area, April 2007 - April 2012



In April 2012, gasoline in Los Angeles averaged \$4.257 per gallon. Gas prices in Los Angeles were \$0.281 or 7.1 percent higher than the national average of \$3.976. Over-the-year, gasoline prices were little changed in Los Angeles and up 2.9 percent nationwide. Although gasoline prices can be volatile from month to month, the local price for gasoline has not fallen below the U.S. city average in the past five years. (See chart 3.)

Chart 3. Average prices for gasoline, United States and the Los Angeles area, April 2007 - April 2012



Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) Definition: The Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, Calif. metropolitan area is comprised of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties in California.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the CPI data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the West Information Office at (415) 625-2270 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys and programs is available on our Web site at www.bls.gov/ro9/.

Technical Information

Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) and per 500 kWh are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm, per 40 therms, and per 100 therms are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

Price quotes for 40 therms and 100 therms of utility (piped) gas and for 500 kWh of electricity are collected in sample outlets for use in the average price programs only. Since they are for specified consumption amounts, they are not used in the CPI. All other price quotes used for average price estimation are regular CPI data.

With the exception of the 40 therms, 100 therms, and 500 kWh price quotes, all eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity.

Table 1. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline, United States and the Los Angeles area, April 2011 – April 2012, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm		Gasoline per gallon	
	United States	Los Angeles	United States	Los Angeles	United States	Los Angeles
April 2011	\$0.127	\$0.206	\$1.078	\$1.085	\$3.863	\$4.200
May 2011	0.129	0.206	1.068	1.177	3.982	4.213
June 2011	0.134	0.184	1.077	1.208	3.753	3.953
July 2011	0.135	0.185	1.078	1.185	3.703	3.824
August 2011	0.135	0.186	1.079	1.220	3.680	3.785
September 2011	0.135	0.186	1.063	1.136	3.664	3.946
October 2011	0.130	0.199	1.047	1.132	3.521	3.869
November 2011	0.128	0.204	1.044	1.002	3.475	3.814
December 2011	0.127	0.204	1.034	0.994	3.329	3.610
January 2012	0.128	0.204	1.021	0.996	3.447	3.747
February 2012	0.128	0.204	0.986	0.931	3.622	4.013
March 2012	0.127	0.204	0.978	0.931	3.918	4.394
April 2012	0.127	0.204	0.951	0.883	3.976	4.257