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**AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES IN THE SEATTLE AREA—  
APRIL 2012**

Seattle area consumers paid more than the U.S. city average for utility (piped) gas (31.0 percent) but less for electricity (-27.6 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 local prices of electricity and gasoline increased over the year while the local price of utility (piped) gas fell during this 12-month period. The percent differential for utility (piped) gas widened over the year as the price fell more slowly in the Seattle area than nationwide. (See table A.) (All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

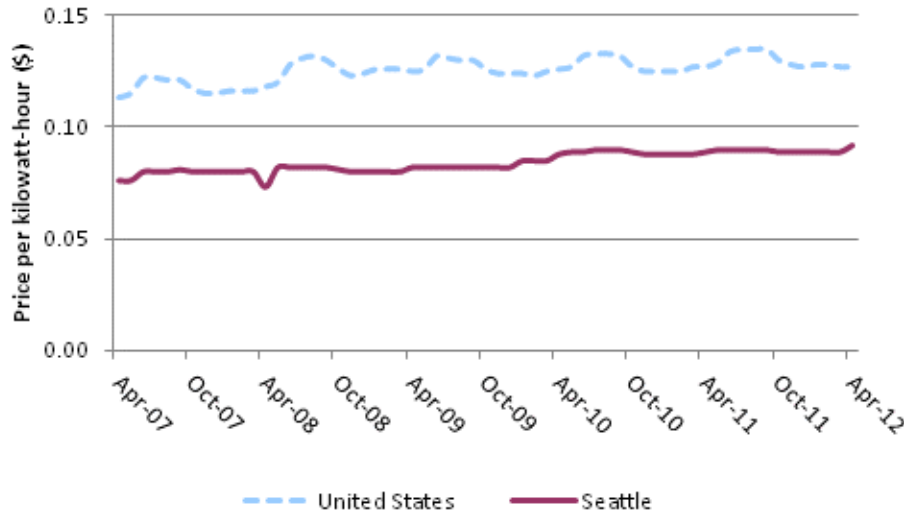
**Table A. Average prices of selected energy products, United States and Seattle area, April 2011 and April 2012**

	April 2011			April 2012		
	United States	Seattle	Percent Difference	United States	Seattle	Percent Difference
<b>Electricity (per KWH)</b>	\$0.127	\$0.089	-29.9	\$0.127	\$0.092	-27.6
<b>Utility (piped) gas per therm</b>	1.078	1.301	20.7	0.951	1.246	31.0
<b>Gasoline per gallon</b>	3.863	3.954	2.4	3.976	4.127	3.8

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

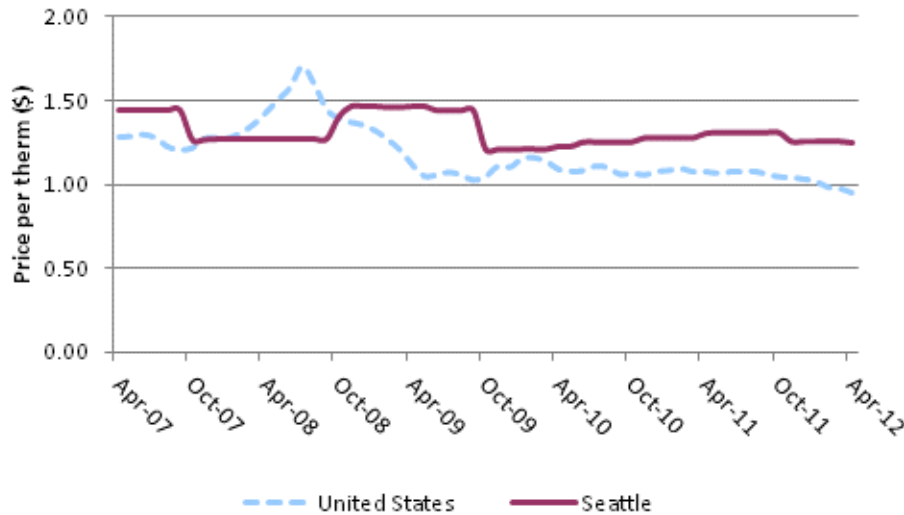
A kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity cost Seattle area consumers \$0.092 in April 2012, 3.4 percent more than one year earlier. Nationwide, electricity prices averaged \$0.127 in April 2012, the same as the previous year. For the past five years, electricity prices in the Seattle area have been consistently below the national average and ranged from approximately 27.0 percent to over 38.0 percent lower. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

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



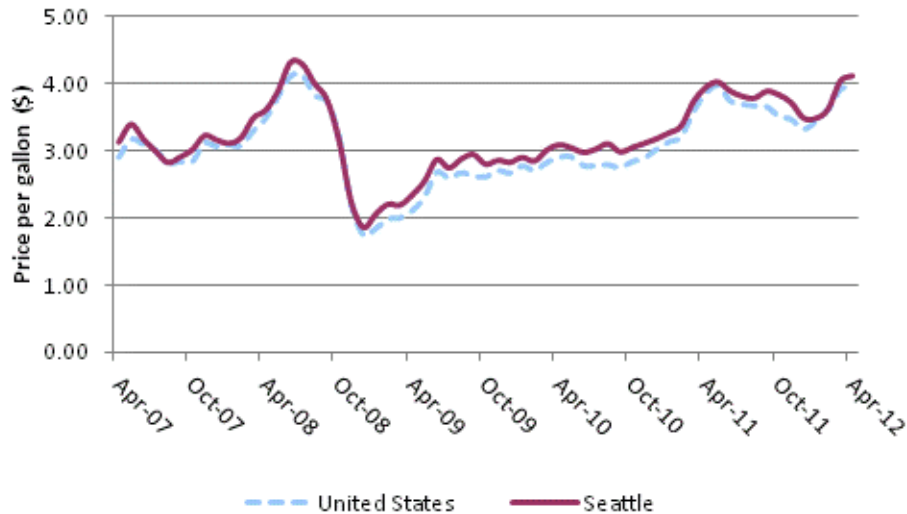
A therm—a measure of constant heating value—of utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, averaged \$1.246 in the Seattle area in April 2012, a decrease of 4.2 percent from the previous April. Nationwide, a therm averaged \$0.951 in April 2012, down 11.8 percent over the year. (See chart 2.)

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



In April 2012, gasoline in Seattle averaged \$4.127 per gallon. Gas prices in Seattle were \$0.151 or 3.8 percent higher than the national average of \$3.976. Over-the-year, gasoline prices were up 4.4 percent in Seattle and up 2.9 percent nationwide. Gasoline prices in Seattle have not fallen below the U.S. city average since October 2008. (See chart 3.)

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



**Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) Definition:** The Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, Wash. metropolitan area is comprised of Kitsap, Thurston, Island, King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties of Washington.

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/](http://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 Seattle area, April 2011 – April 2012, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and Month	Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm		Gasoline per gallon	
	United States	Seattle	United States	Seattle	United States	Seattle
<b>April 2011</b>	\$0.127	\$0.089	\$1.078	\$1.301	\$3.863	\$3.954
<b>May 2011</b>	0.129	0.090	1.068	1.307	3.982	4.033
<b>June 2011</b>	0.134	0.090	1.077	1.307	3.753	3.900
<b>July 2011</b>	0.135	0.090	1.078	1.307	3.703	3.820
<b>August 2011</b>	0.135	0.090	1.079	1.307	3.680	3.793
<b>September 2011</b>	0.135	0.090	1.063	1.307	3.664	3.896
<b>October 2011</b>	0.130	0.089	1.047	1.306	3.521	3.843
<b>November 2011</b>	0.128	0.089	1.044	1.253	3.475	3.725
<b>December 2011</b>	0.127	0.089	1.034	1.253	3.329	3.494
<b>January 2012</b>	0.128	0.089	1.021	1.253	3.447	3.488
<b>February 2012</b>	0.128	0.089	0.986	1.253	3.622	3.625
<b>March 2012</b>	0.127	0.089	0.978	1.253	3.918	4.046
<b>April 2012</b>	0.127	0.092	0.951	1.246	3.976	4.127