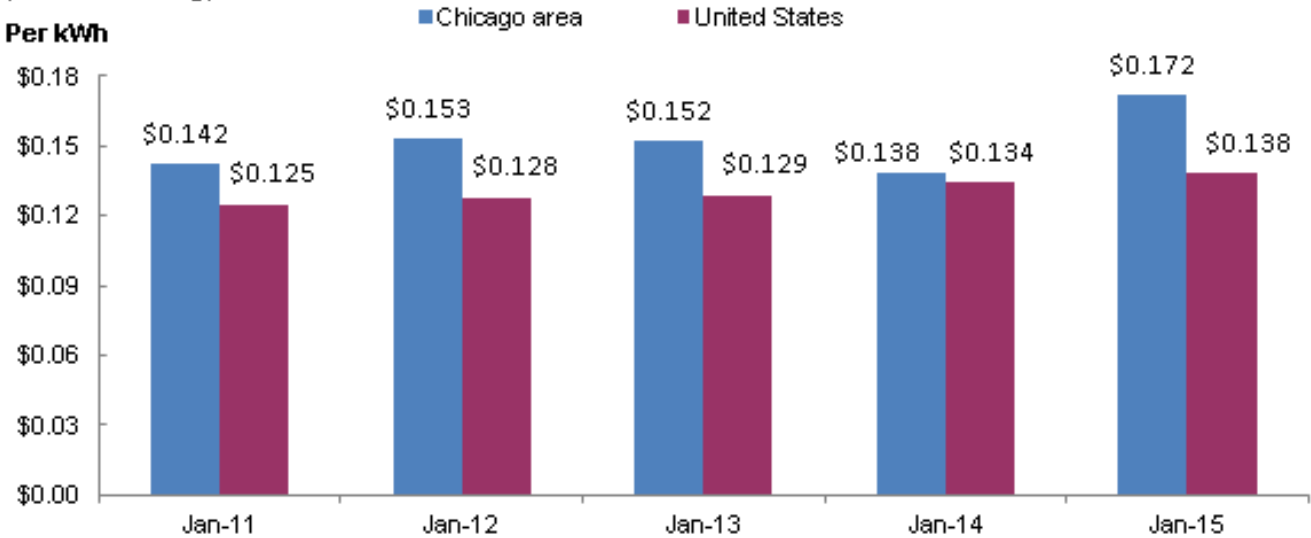


Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of January)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2014, the number of individuals considered to be marginally attached to the labor force in Wisconsin was 37,800. People marginally attached to the labor force are not working but indicate that they would like to work, are available to work, and have looked for work at some time during the past 12 months even though they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. In the United States, the number marginally attached totaled 2.2 million in 2014.

Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached, are persons who are not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them. In 2014, there were 7,300 discouraged workers in Wisconsin, accounting for about 19 percent of all marginally attached workers in the state. The U-4 measure, which adds discouraged workers to the number of the unemployed (expressed as a percentage of the labor force plus the number of discouraged workers), was 5.8 percent in Wisconsin and 6.6 percent for the nation in 2014.

As noted, 5 of the 6 measures of labor underutilization in Wisconsin had significant over-the-year decreases in 2014. The U-6 measure declined 1.8 percentage points from a year ago. The U-1, U-3 and U-4 measures had measurable rate declines from 1.2 to 1.0, while the U-5 measures saw declines of 0.9 percentage points. The U-2 measures did not have statistically significant over-the-year changes.

State comparisons

In 2014, North Dakota had the lowest rates for all six alternative measures of labor underutilization, ranging from a U-1 of 0.8 percent to a U-6 of 5.4 percent. In total, 18 states had rates that were statistically significantly lower than the U.S. for all six measures. Four states (California, Michigan, Nevada, and Rhode Island) had rates measurably higher than the U.S. for all six measures. (See [table 2](#).)

Relative to 2013, 23 states experienced statistically significant decreases in all six measures of labor underutilization. Arkansas (-3.5 percentage points), Illinois and Kentucky (-3.3 points each), and Colorado (-3.1 points) had the largest over-the-year decreases in the U-6 measure. No state had a significant over-the-year rate increase in any of the six measures.

Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming had rates among the 10 lowest for each measure in both 2013 and 2014. Except for Utah, these same states have been among the 10 states with the lowest rates for each measure since 2010. Similarly, California, Nevada, and Rhode Island had rates among the 10 highest for each measure in 2013 and 2014.