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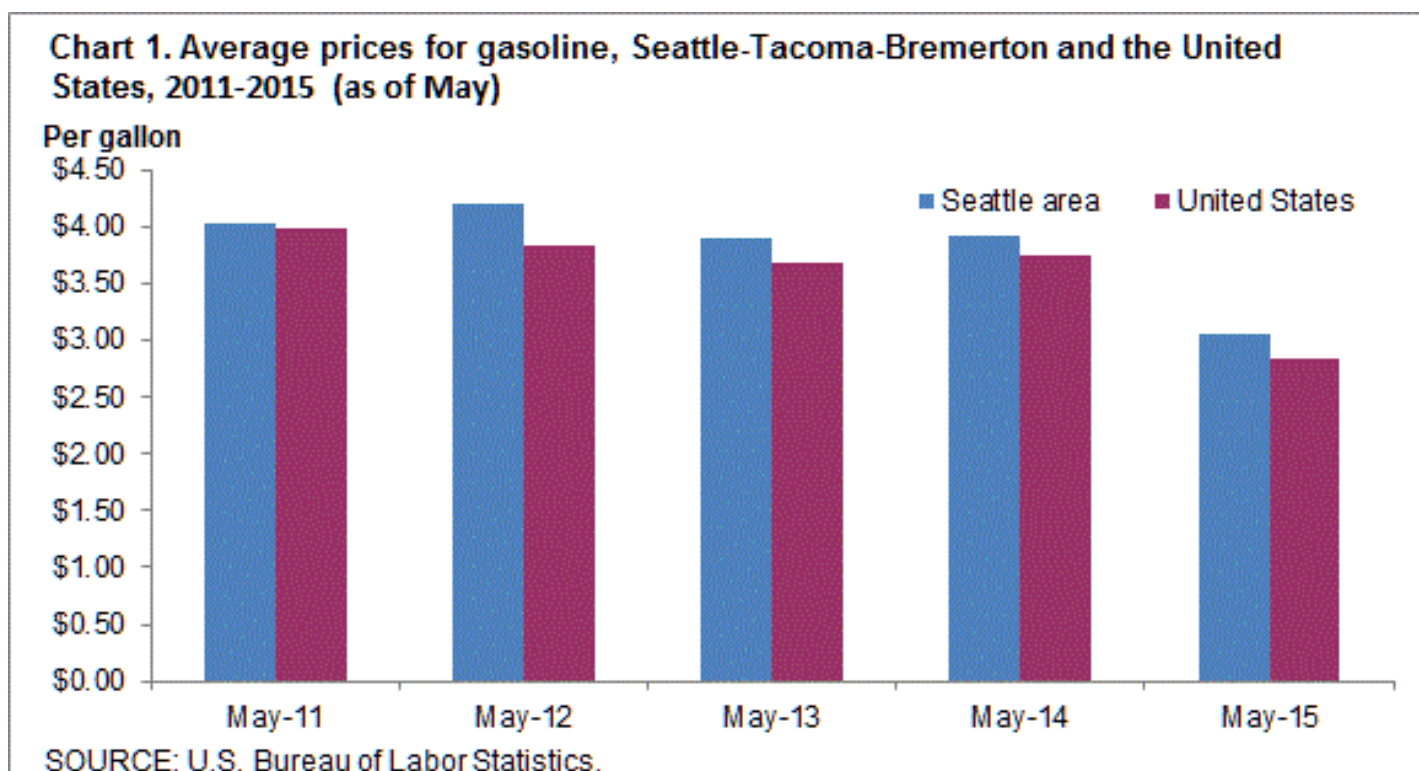
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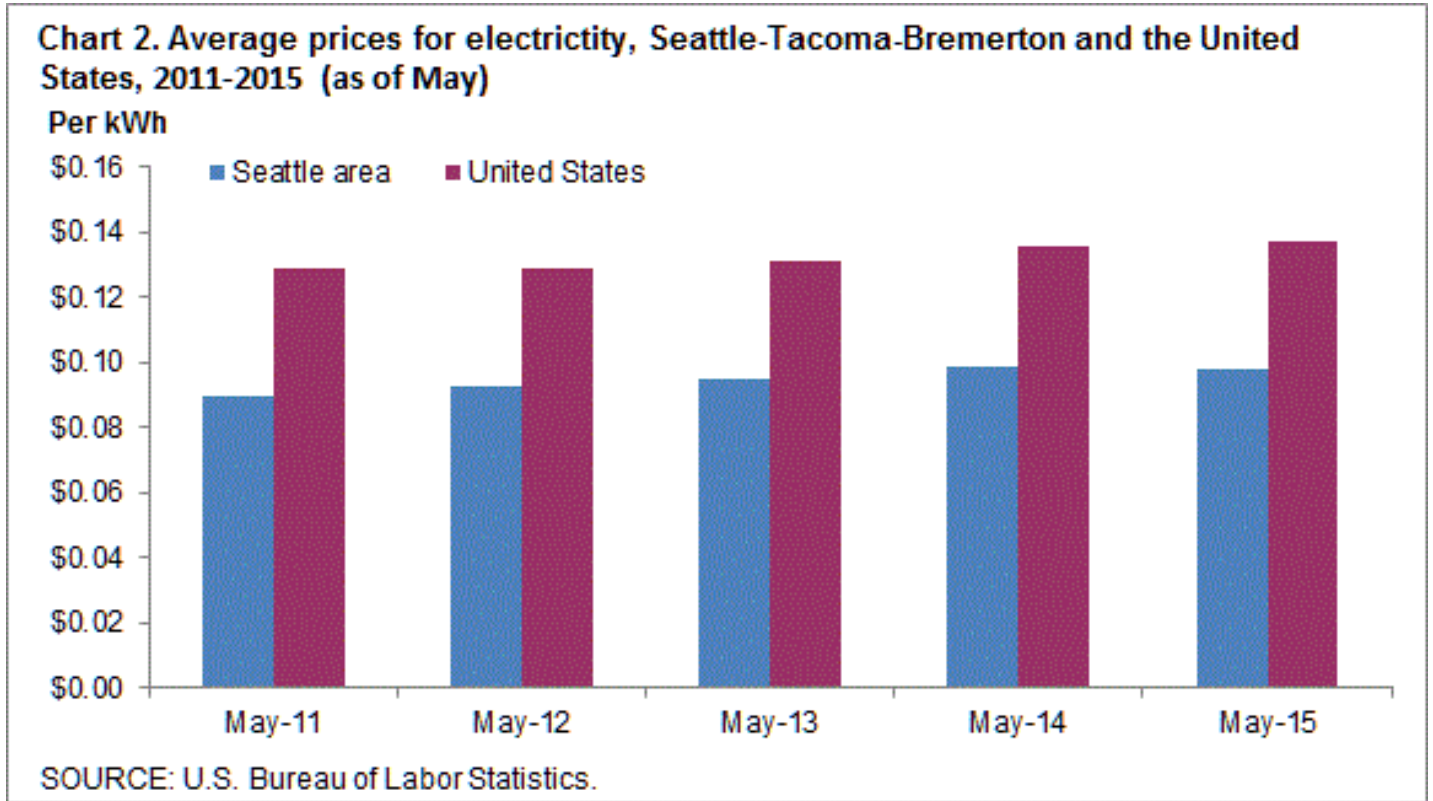
Average Energy Prices, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, May 2015

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.049 a gallon in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area in May 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that area gasoline prices were down 87.1 cents compared to last May when they averaged \$3.920 per gallon. Seattle area households paid an average of 9.8 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in May 2015, similar to the rate paid in May 2014. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.253 per therm in May was higher than the \$1.187 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

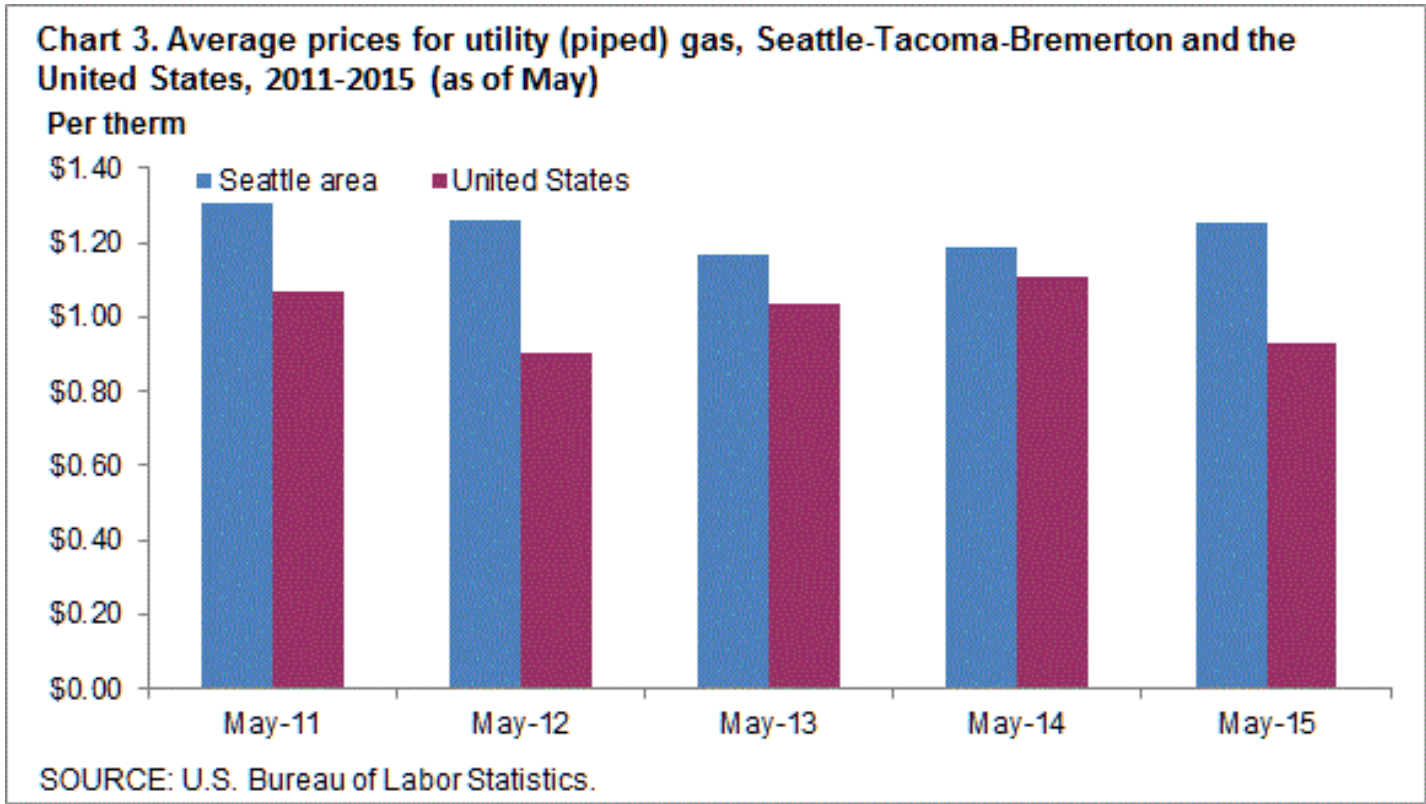
At \$3.049 a gallon, Seattle area consumers paid 7.7 percent more than the \$2.832 national average in May 2015. A year earlier, consumers in the Seattle area paid 4.7 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has been within 9.6 percent of the national average in the month of May in each of the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))



The 9.8 cents per kWh Seattle households paid for electricity in May 2015 was 28.5 percent less than the nationwide average of 13.7 cents per kWh. Last May, electricity costs were 27.2 percent lower in Seattle compared to the nation. In each of the past five years, prices paid by Seattle area consumers for electricity were less than the U.S. average by at least 27.2 percent in the month of May. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Seattle area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.253 per therm, or 34.7 percent more compared to the national average in May 2015 (\$0.930 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 6.8 percent more price per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in May in the Seattle area has varied between 6.8 percent and 39.4 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



The Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, Wash. metropolitan area consists of Kitsap, Thurston, Island, King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties of Washington.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. 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.

The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton and the United States, May 2014-May 2015, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Seattle area	United States	Seattle area	United States	Seattle area	United States
2014						
May.....	3.920	3.745	0.099	0.136	1.187	1.111
June.....	3.977	3.750	0.096	0.143	1.187	1.088
July.....	4.007	3.690	0.096	0.143	1.187	1.093
August.....	3.881	3.540	0.096	0.143	1.187	1.060
September.....	3.794	3.463	0.096	0.141	1.187	1.058
October.....	3.448	3.241	0.095	0.136	1.186	1.033
November.....	3.048	2.945	0.095	0.134	1.214	1.035
December.....	2.884	2.618	0.083	0.135	1.214	1.060
2015						
January.....	2.348	2.170	0.096	0.138	1.216	1.036
February.....	2.358	2.308	0.096	0.138	1.216	1.007
March.....	2.904	2.544	0.096	0.136	1.216	0.985
April.....	2.745	2.545	0.098	0.137	1.216	0.947
May.....	3.049	2.832	0.098	0.137	1.253	0.930