NEWS RELEASE
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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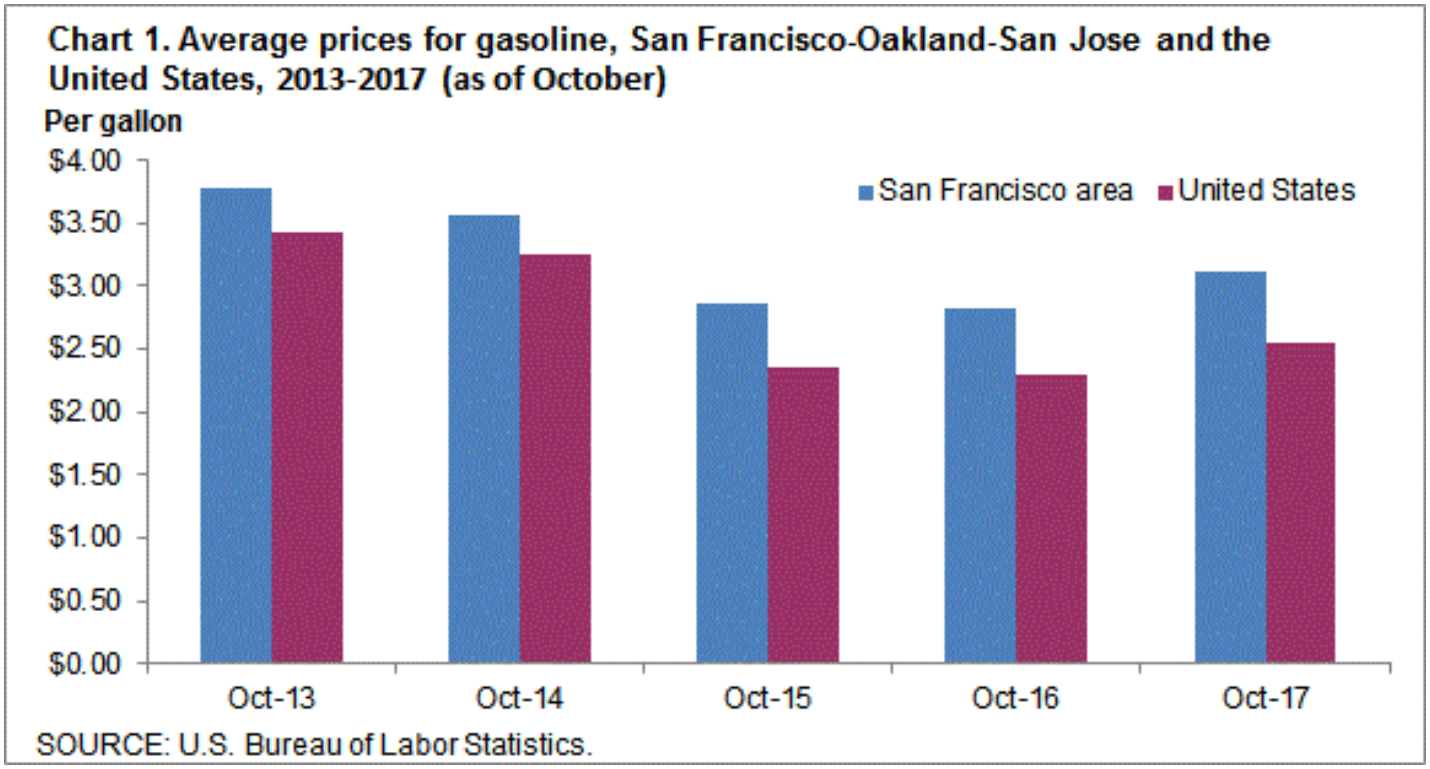
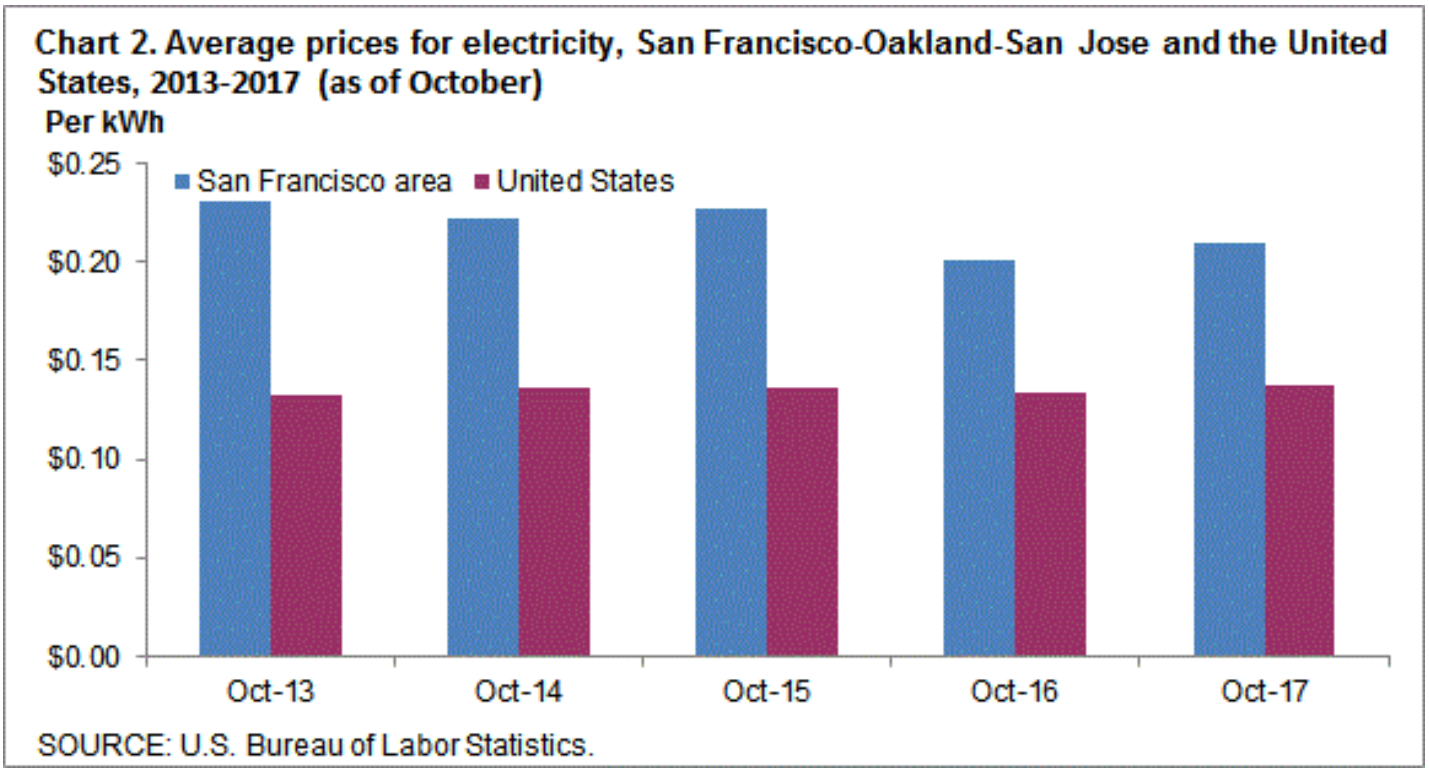
Average Energy Prices, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose – October 2017

Gasoline prices averaged $3.111 a gallon in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area in October 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that area gasoline prices were higher than last October when they averaged $2.831 per gallon. San Francisco area households paid an average of 21.0 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in October 2017, higher than the 20.1 cents per kWh paid in October 2016. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at $1.525 per therm in October was 18.1 cents less than the $1.706 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

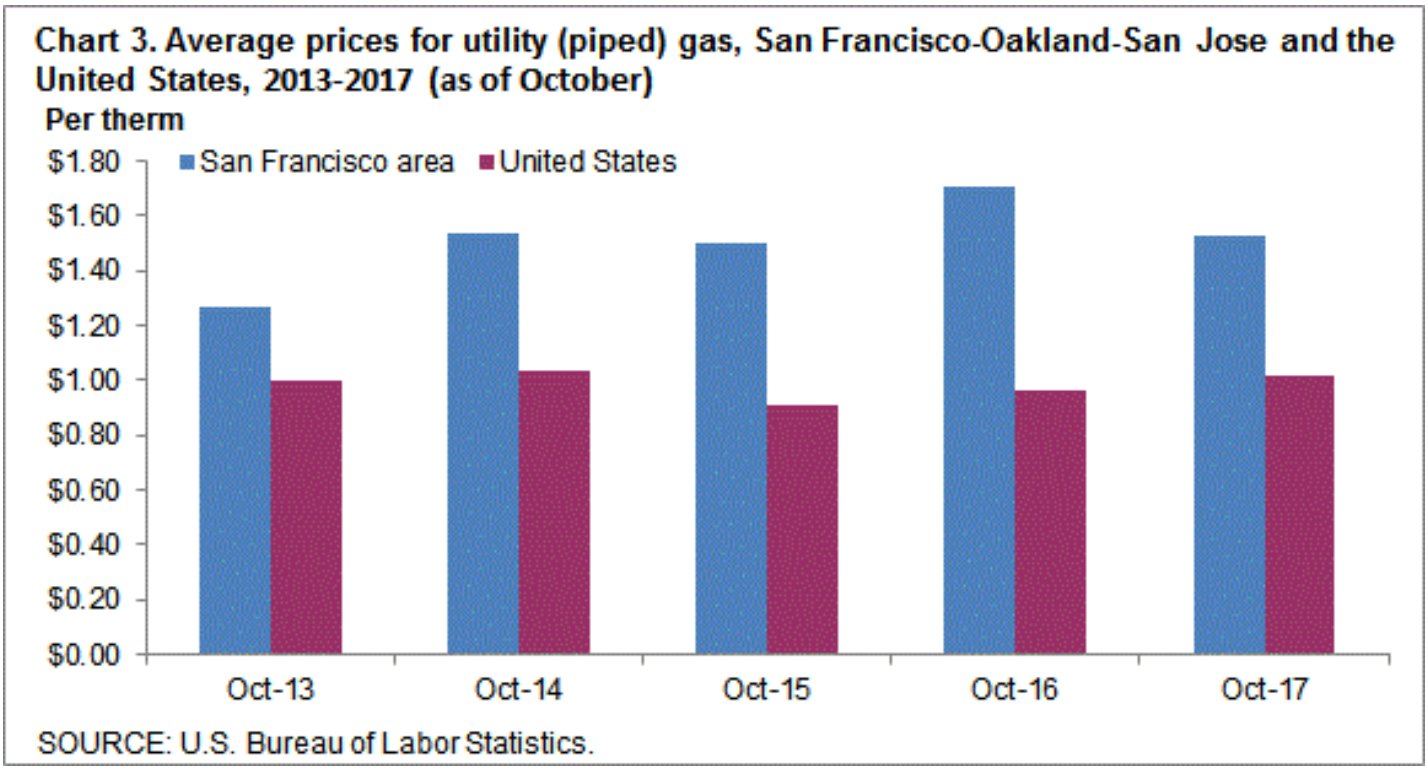
At $3.111 a gallon, San Francisco area consumers paid 22.2 percent more than the $2.545 national average in October 2017. A year earlier, consumers in the San Francisco area paid 22.9 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has ranged from 9.9 to 22.9 percent above the national average in the month of October during the past five years. (See chart 1.)



The 21.0 cents per kWh San Francisco households paid for electricity in October 2017 was 53.3 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.7 cents per kWh. Last October, electricity costs were 50.0 percent higher in San Francisco compared to the nation. In each of the past five years, prices paid by San Francisco area consumers for electricity exceeded the U.S. average by at least 50.0 percent in the month of October. (See chart 2.)



Prices paid by San Francisco area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were $1.525 per therm, or 49.5 percent above the national average in October 2017 ($1.020 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 77.5 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in October in the San Francisco area has varied between 26.5 percent and 77.5 percent above the U.S. average. (See chart 3.)



The San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Calif. metropolitan area consists of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma Counties in California.

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) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm, 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.

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 in 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, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose and the United States, October 2016-October 2017, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	San Francisco area	United States	San Francisco area	United States	San Francisco area	United States
2016						
October	$2.831	$2.304	$0.201	$0.134	$1.706	$0.961
November	2.750	2.246	0.190	0.131	1.516	0.970
December	2.737	2.289	0.190	0.133	1.454	0.972
2017						
January	2.848	2.409	0.189	0.134	1.424	1.000
February	2.906	2.360	0.189	0.135	1.414	1.003
March	3.057	2.386	0.201	0.134	1.374	0.989
April	3.066	2.479	0.204	0.135	1.632	1.000
May	3.143	2.448	0.210	0.137	1.609	1.036
June	3.107	2.400	0.210	0.142	1.602	1.040
July	2.991	2.344	0.210	0.143	1.529	1.031
August	3.023	2.436	0.210	0.142	1.538	1.027
September	3.190	2.688	0.210	0.142	1.484	1.018
October	3.111	2.545	0.210	0.137	1.525	1.020