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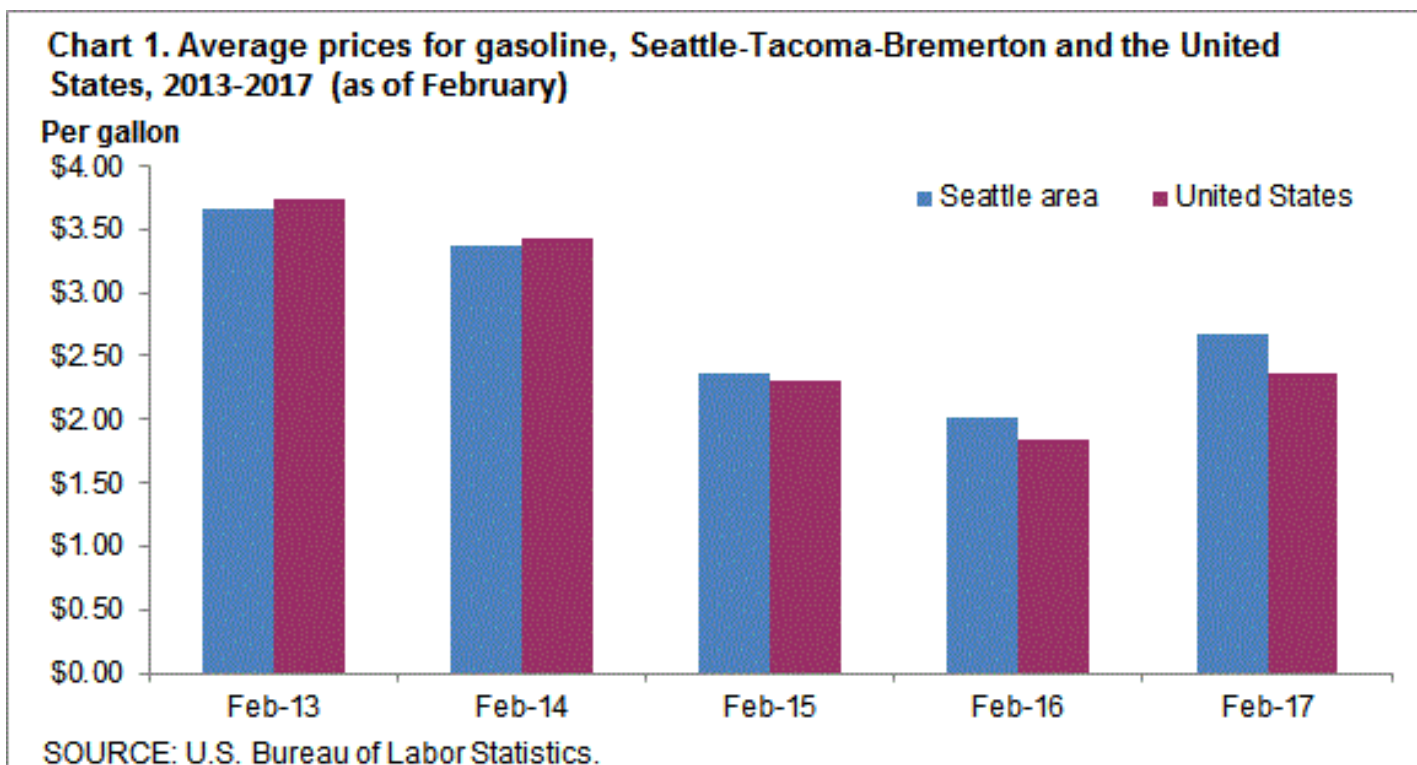
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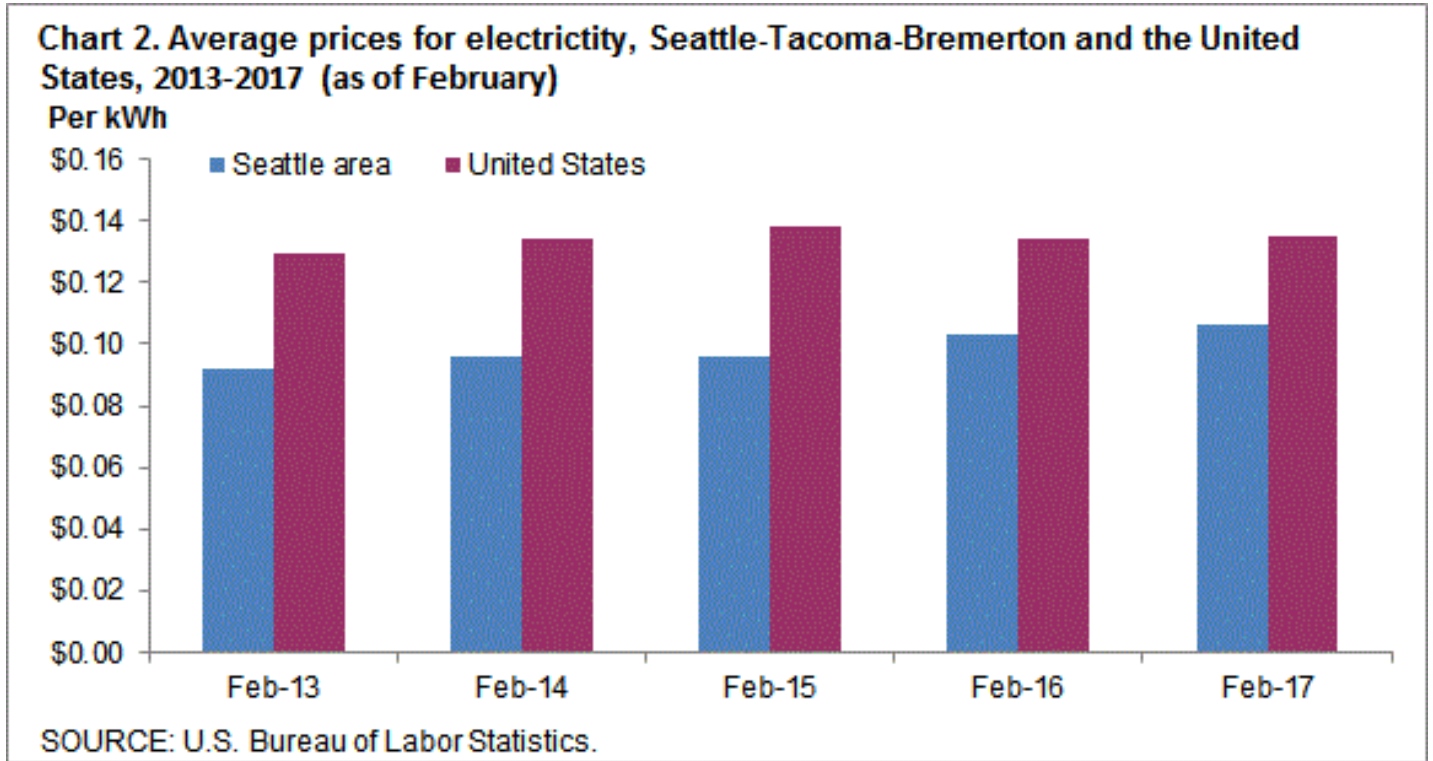
Average Energy Prices, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton – February 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.666 a gallon in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area in February 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that area gasoline prices were up 64.7 cents compared to last February when they averaged \$2.019 per gallon. Seattle area households paid an average of 10.6 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in February 2017, higher than the 10.3 cents per kWh paid in February 2016. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.122 per therm in February was higher than the \$1.056 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

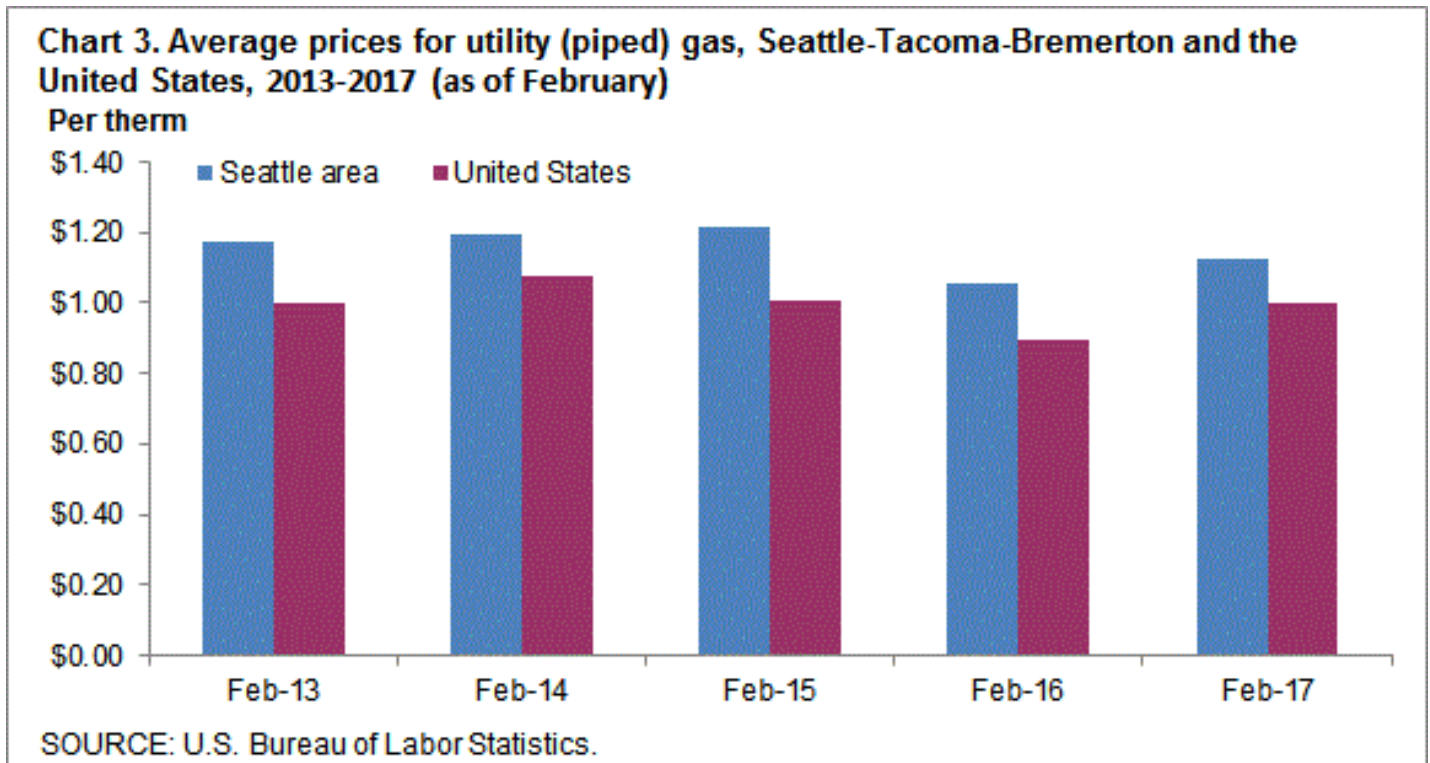
At \$2.666 a gallon, Seattle area consumers paid 13.0 percent more than the \$2.360 national average in February 2017. A year earlier, consumers in the Seattle area paid 10.1 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has been within 13.0 percent of the national average in the month of February during the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))



The 10.6 cents per kWh Seattle households paid for electricity in February 2017 was 21.5 percent less than the nationwide average of 13.5 cents per kWh. Last February, electricity costs were 23.1 percent lower in Seattle compared to the nation. In each of the past five years during the month of February, prices paid by Seattle area consumers for electricity were less than the U.S. average by at least 21.5 percent. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Seattle area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.122 per therm, or 11.9 percent more compared to the national average in February 2017 (\$1.003 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 18.0 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in February in the Seattle area has varied between 10.9 percent and 20.8 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) 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, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton and the United States, February 2016-February 2017, 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
2016						
February	\$2.019	\$1.833	\$0.103	\$0.134	\$1.056	\$0.895
March	2.119	2.021	0.103	0.134	1.058	0.884
April	2.253	2.196	0.106	0.134	1.058	0.879
May	2.437	2.324	0.108	0.133	1.085	0.877
June	2.567	2.422	0.108	0.138	1.123	0.891
July	2.561	2.287	0.108	0.139	1.123	0.931
August	2.492	2.218	0.108	0.139	1.123	0.943
September	2.597	2.269	0.108	0.139	1.119	0.954
October	2.643	2.304	0.105	0.134	1.119	0.961
November	2.594	2.246	0.105	0.131	1.122	0.970
December	2.473	2.289	0.104	0.133	1.122	0.972
2017						
January	2.686	2.409	0.106	0.134	1.122	1.000
February	2.666	2.360	0.106	0.135	1.122	1.003