



For Release: Monday, October 15, 2018

18-1681-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

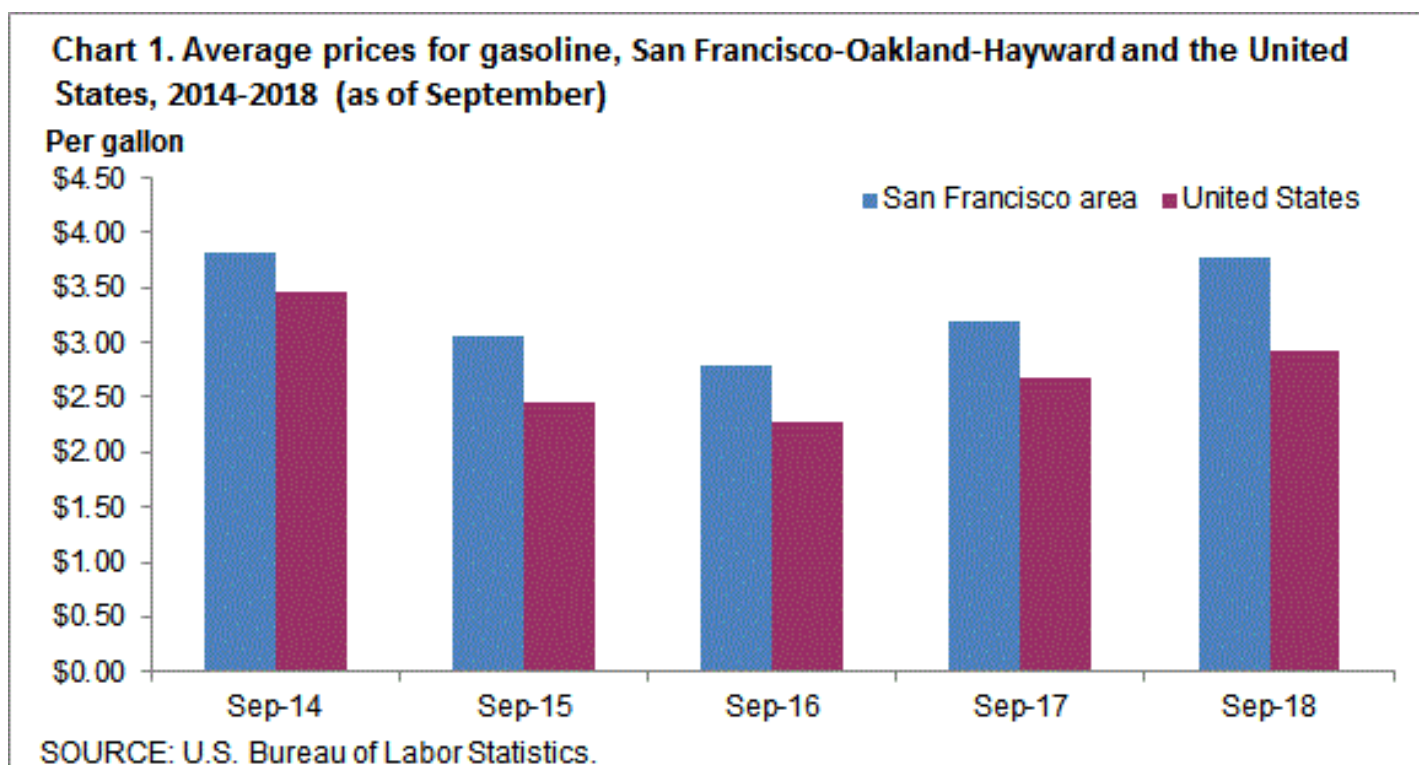
Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

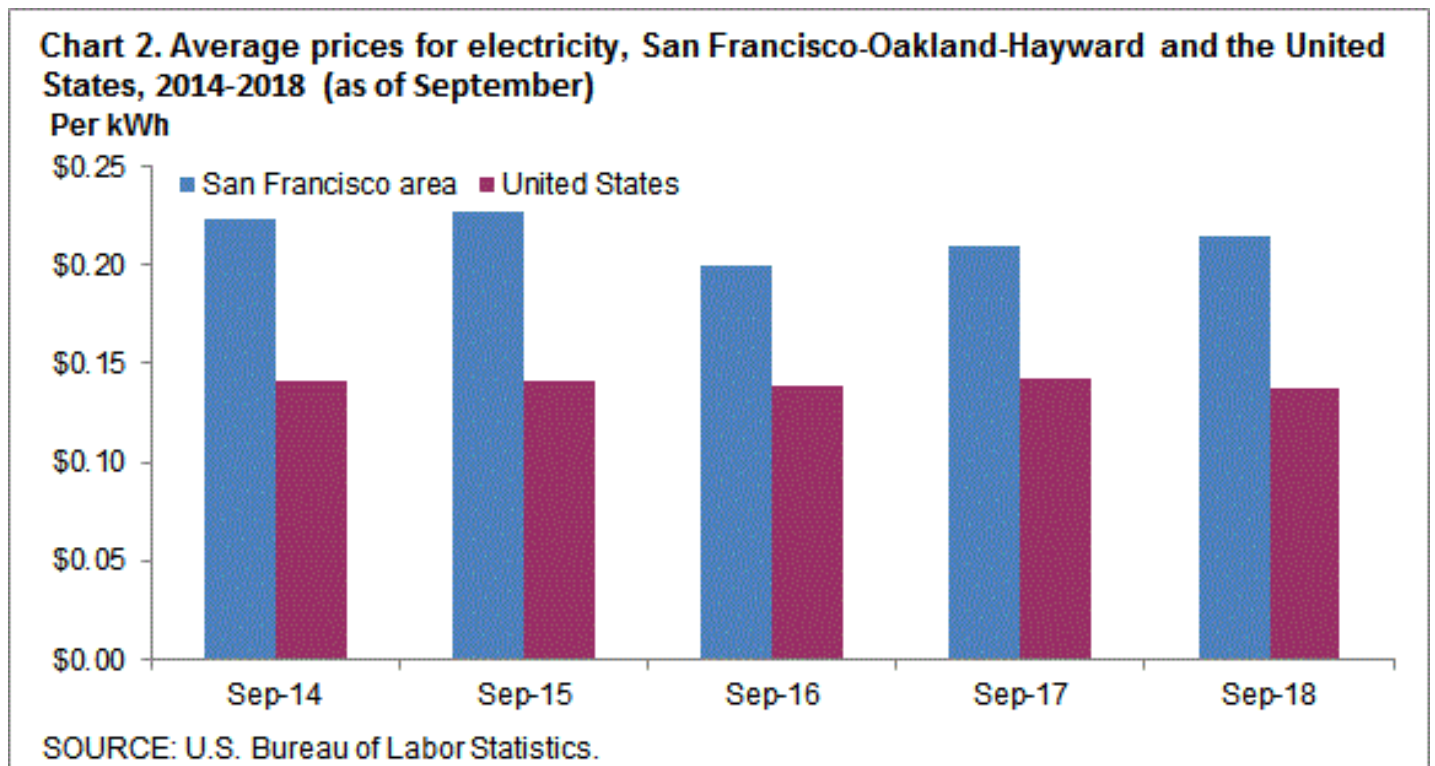
Average Energy Prices, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward – September 2018

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.766 a gallon in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward area in September 2018, 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 September when they averaged \$3.190 per gallon. San Francisco area households paid an average of 21.4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in September 2018, similar to the 21.0 cents per kWh paid in September 2017. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.547 per therm in September was higher than the \$1.484 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

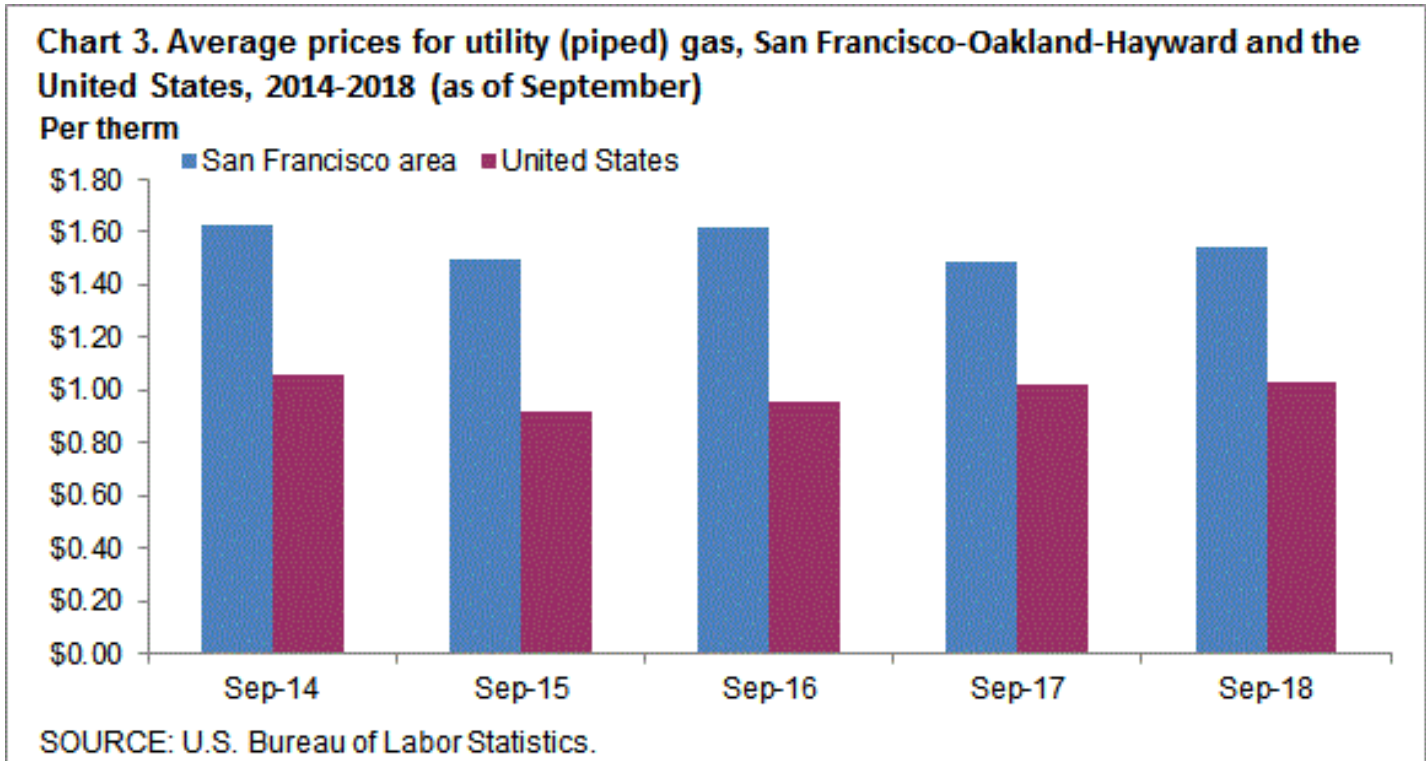
At \$3.766 a gallon, San Francisco area consumers paid 28.5 percent more than the \$2.930 national average in September 2018. A year earlier, consumers in the San Francisco area paid 18.7 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has ranged from 10.2 to 28.5 percent above the national average in the month of September during the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))



The 21.4 cents per kWh San Francisco households paid for electricity in September 2018 was 55.1 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.8 cents per kWh. Last September, electricity costs were 47.9 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 43.9 percent in the month of September. (See [chart 2](#).)



Prices paid by San Francisco area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.547 per therm, or 50.2 percent above the national average in September 2018 (\$1.030 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 45.8 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in September in the San Francisco area has varied between 45.8 percent and 69.6 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3](#).)



The San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, Calif. metropolitan area consists of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo 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, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 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-Hayward and the United States, September 2017-September 2018, 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
2017						
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
November.....	3.230	2.608	0.204	0.136	1.338	1.028
December.....	3.164	2.521	0.204	0.136	1.372	1.042
2018						
January.....	3.302	2.596	0.205	0.135	1.390	1.048
February.....	3.428	2.632	0.205	0.135	1.423	1.077
March.....	3.494	2.631	0.212	0.135	1.339	1.054
April.....	3.624	2.795	0.205	0.134	1.615	1.044
May.....	3.796	2.963	0.211	0.136	1.538	1.050
June.....	3.803	2.970	0.211	0.139	1.485	1.042
July.....	3.790	2.930	0.211	0.139	1.515	1.038
August.....	3.764	2.919	0.211	0.139	1.577	1.055
September.....	3.766	2.930	0.214	0.138	1.547	1.030