



**For Release: Thursday, March 17, 2016**

**16-605-SAN**

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

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

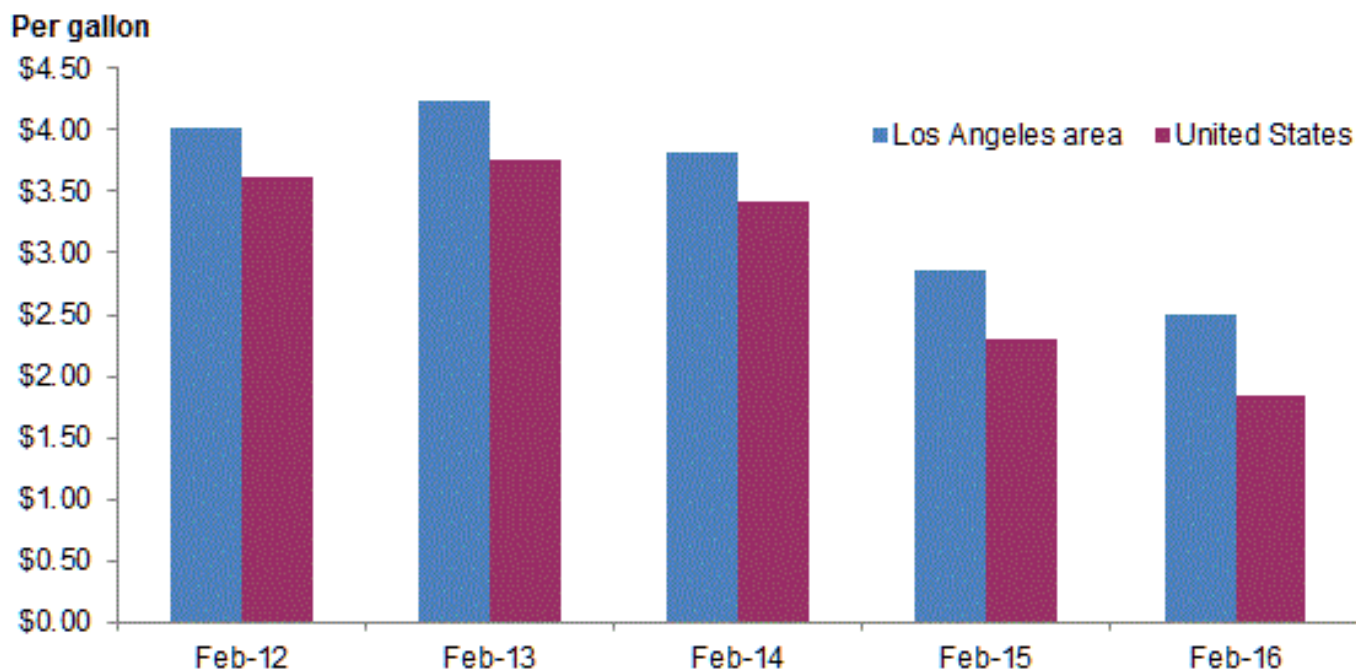
Media contact: (415) 625-2270

### Average Energy Prices, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, February 2016

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.502 a gallon in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area in February 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that area gasoline prices were 36.5 cents less than last February when they averaged \$2.867 per gallon. Los Angeles area households paid an average of 21.3 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in February 2016, similar to the 21.6 cents per kWh paid in February 2015. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.152 per therm in February was similar to the \$1.165 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

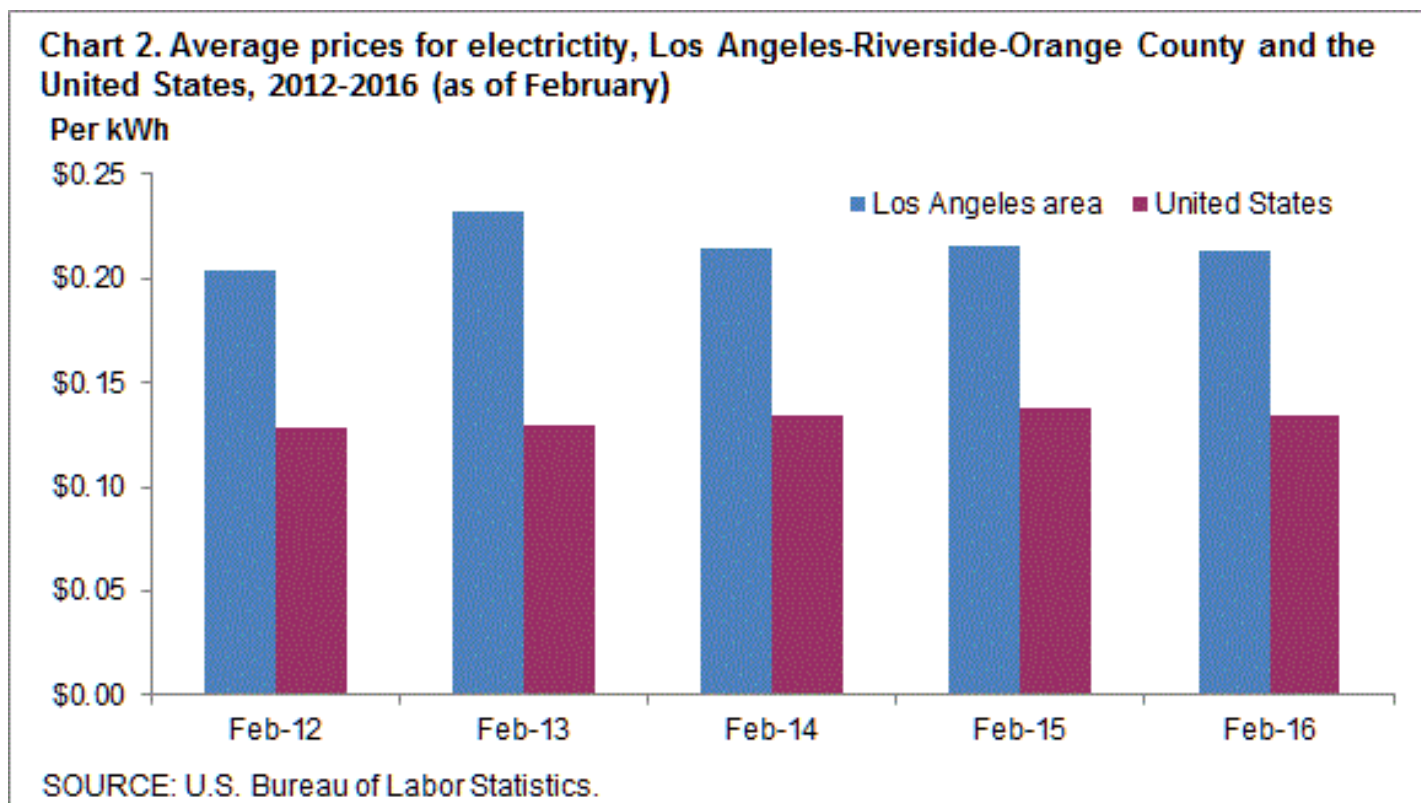
At \$2.502 a gallon, Los Angeles area consumers paid 36.5 percent more than the \$1.833 national average in February 2016. A year earlier, consumers in the Los Angeles area paid 24.2 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has ranged from 10.8 to 36.5 percent above the national average in the month of February during the past five years. (See [chart 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County and the United States, 2012-2016 (as of February)**



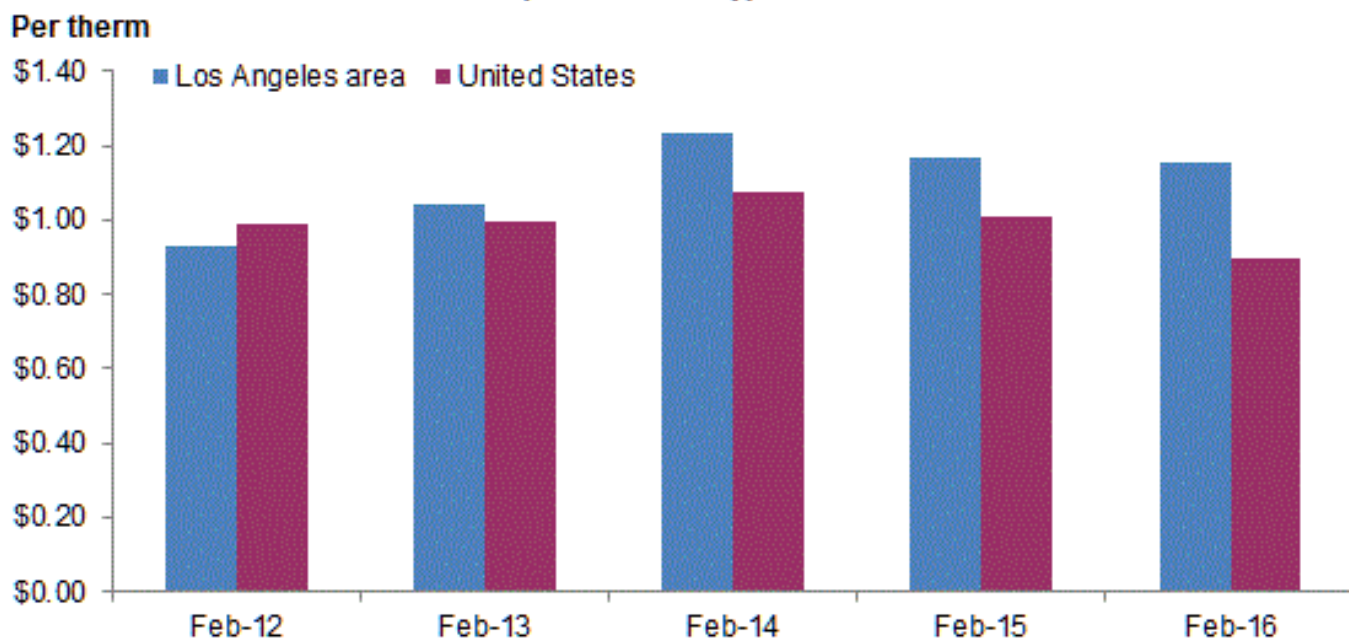
SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 21.3 cents per kWh Los Angeles households paid for electricity in February 2016 was 59.0 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.4 cents per kWh. Last February, electricity costs were 56.5 percent higher in Los Angeles compared to the nation. In the past five years, prices paid by Los Angeles area consumers for electricity exceeded the U.S. average by 56.5 percent or more in the month of February. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Los Angeles area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.152 per therm, or 28.7 percent more compared to the national average in February 2016 (\$0.895 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 15.7 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the Los Angeles area over the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in November has varied between 5.6 percent below and 28.7 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County and the United States, 2012-2016 (as of February)**



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, Calif. metropolitan area consists of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura 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, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County and the United States, February 2015-February 2016, not seasonally adjusted**

	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Los Angeles area	United States	Los Angeles area	United States	Los Angeles area	United States
<b>2015</b>						
February .....	\$2.867	\$2.308	\$0.216	\$0.138	\$1.165	\$1.007
March .....	3.371	2.544	0.215	0.136	1.161	0.985
April .....	3.229	2.545	0.217	0.137	1.124	0.947
May.....	3.898	2.832	0.217	0.137	1.124	0.930
June.....	3.625	2.889	0.206	0.143	1.261	0.942
July .....	4.022	2.893	0.206	0.142	1.259	0.933
August .....	3.684	2.745	0.205	0.142	1.275	0.932
September.....	3.206	2.463	0.205	0.141	1.261	0.921
October.....	2.956	2.357	0.213	0.136	1.253	0.909
November.....	2.850	2.249	0.213	0.134	1.104	0.903
December.....	2.842	2.125	0.209	0.133	1.153	0.892
<b>2016</b>						
January.....	2.909	2.034	0.213	0.134	1.155	0.898
February.....	2.502	1.833	0.213	0.134	1.152	0.895