



**For Release: Thursday, January 25, 2018**

**18-136-SAN**

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

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

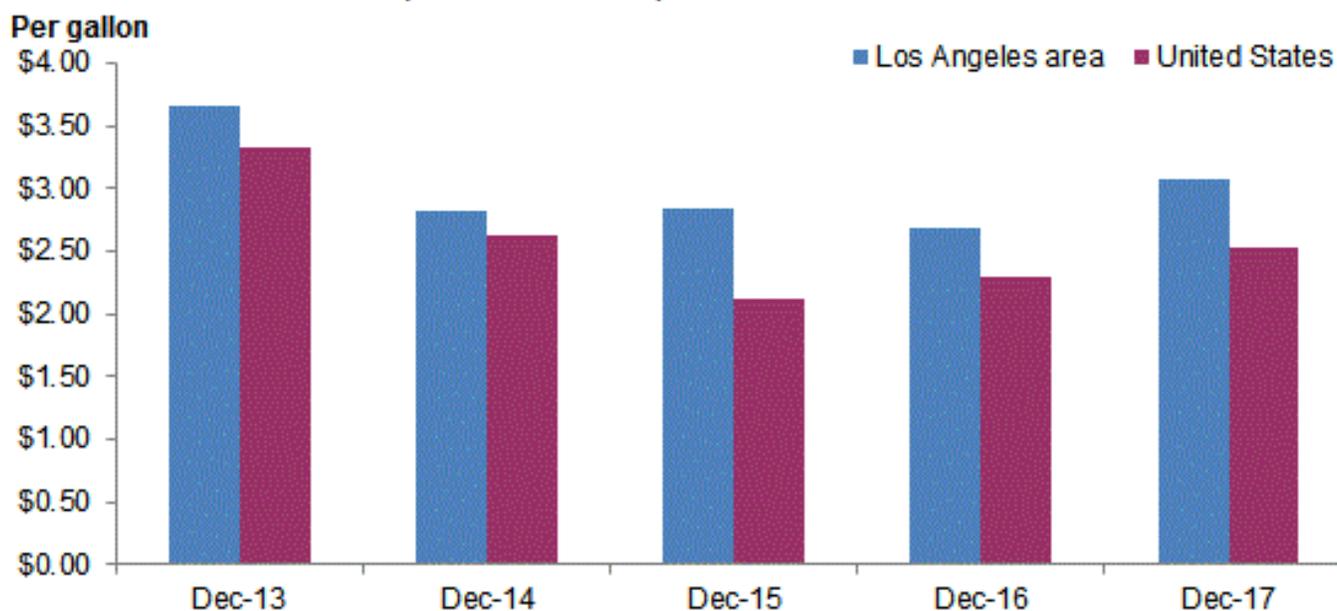
Media contact: (415) 625-2270

## **Average Energy Prices, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County – December 2017**

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.078 a gallon in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area in December 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 December when they averaged \$2.680 per gallon. Los Angeles area households paid an average of 18.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in December 2017, similar to the 19.0 cents per kWh paid in December 2016. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.154 per therm in December was lower than the \$1.242 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

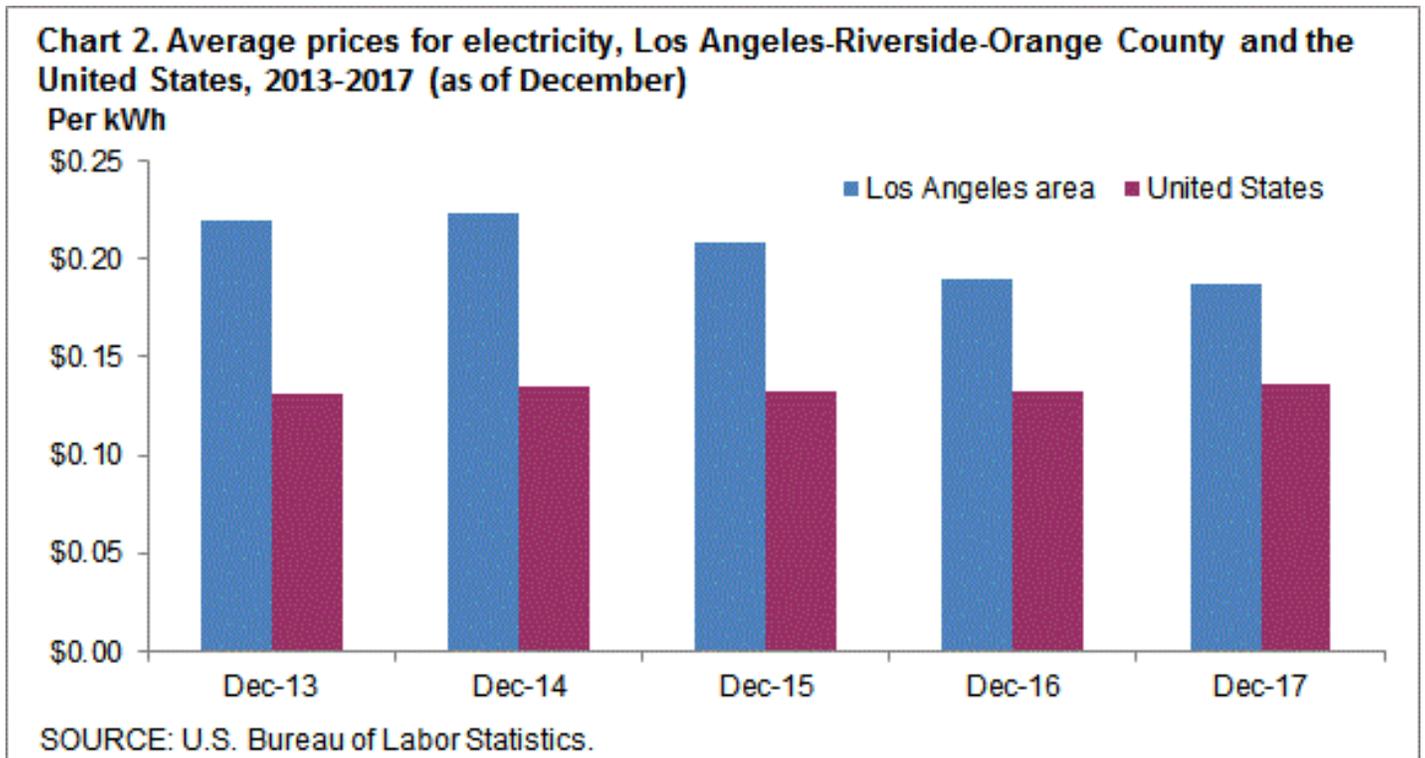
At \$3.078 a gallon, Los Angeles area consumers paid 22.1 percent more than the \$2.521 national average in December 2017. A year earlier, consumers in the Los Angeles area paid 17.1 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has ranged from 8.1 to 33.7 percent above the national average in the month of December during the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County and the United States, 2013-2017 (as of December)**

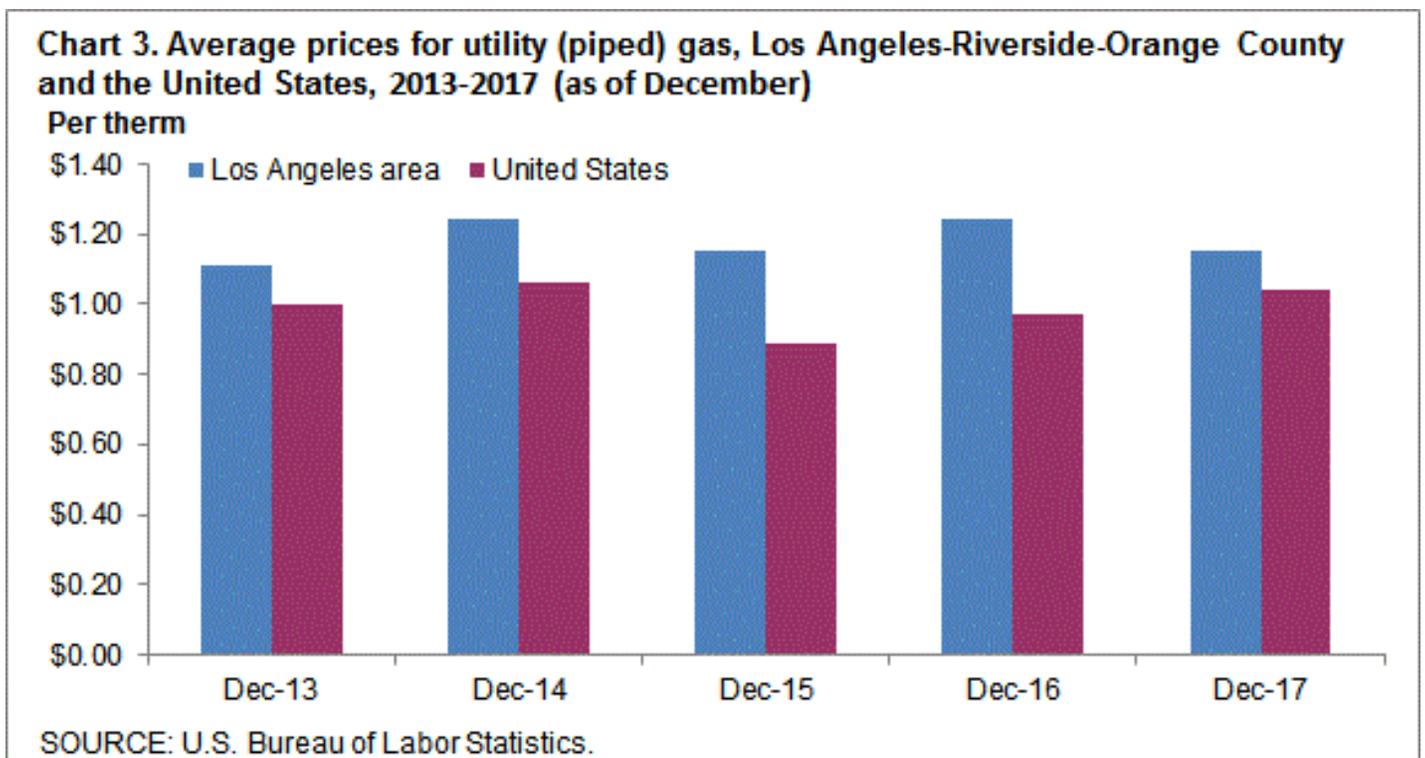


SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 18.7 cents per kWh Los Angeles households paid for electricity in December 2017 was 37.5 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.6 cents per kWh. Last December, electricity costs were 42.9 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 37.5 percent or more in the month of December. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Los Angeles area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.154 per therm, or 10.7 percent more compared to the national average in December 2017 (\$1.042 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 27.8 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 December has varied between 10.7 and 29.3 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



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, December 2016-December 2017, 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>2016</b>						
December .....	\$2.680	\$2.289	\$0.190	\$0.133	\$1.242	\$0.972
<b>2017</b>						
January .....	2.802	2.409	0.184	0.134	1.216	1.000
February .....	2.925	2.360	0.184	0.135	1.182	1.003
March .....	3.011	2.386	0.184	0.134	1.156	0.989
April .....	3.003	2.479	0.186	0.135	1.150	1.000
May .....	2.997	2.448	0.186	0.137	1.344	1.036
June .....	2.947	2.400	0.178	0.142	1.362	1.040
July .....	2.869	2.344	0.178	0.143	1.325	1.031
August .....	2.955	2.436	0.178	0.142	1.323	1.027
September .....	3.118	2.688	0.178	0.142	1.308	1.018
October .....	3.017	2.545	0.187	0.137	1.290	1.020
November .....	3.193	2.608	0.186	0.136	1.115	1.028
December .....	3.078	2.521	0.187	0.136	1.154	1.042