



For Release: Monday, November 19, 2018

18-1870-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

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

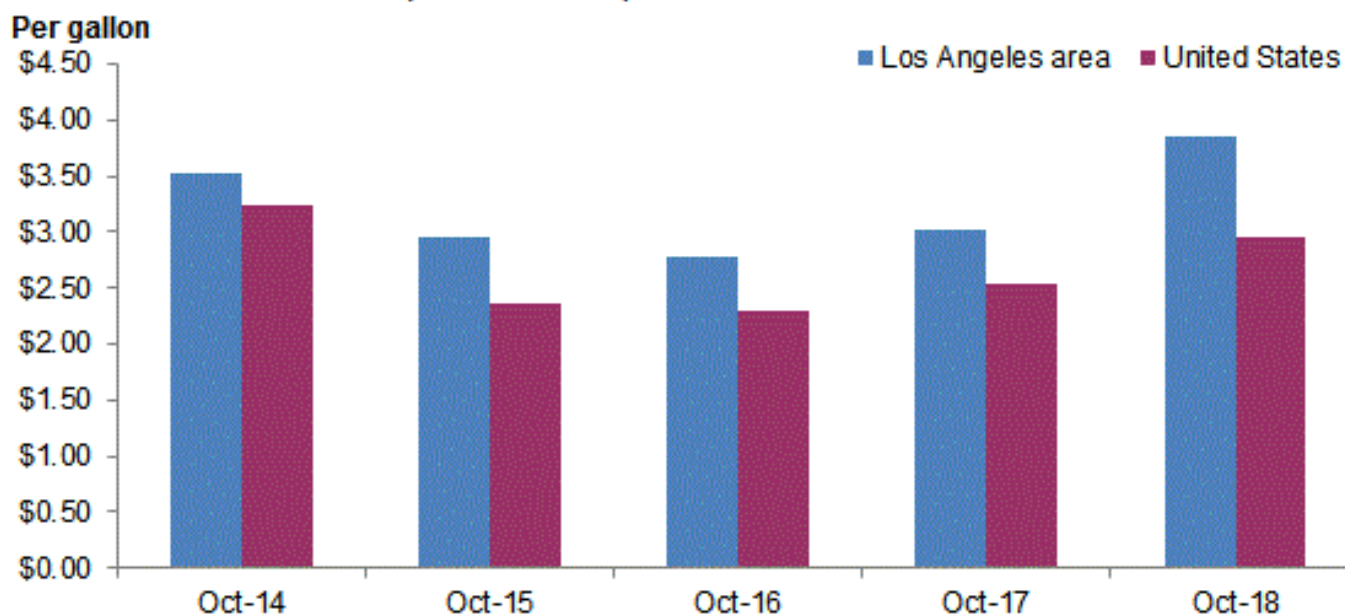
Media contact: (415) 625-2270

Average Energy Prices, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim – October 2018

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.844 a gallon in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area in October 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 October when they averaged \$3.017 per gallon. Los Angeles area households paid an average of 18.4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in October 2018, similar to the 18.7 cents price per kWh paid in October 2017. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.279 per therm in October was similar to the \$1.290 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

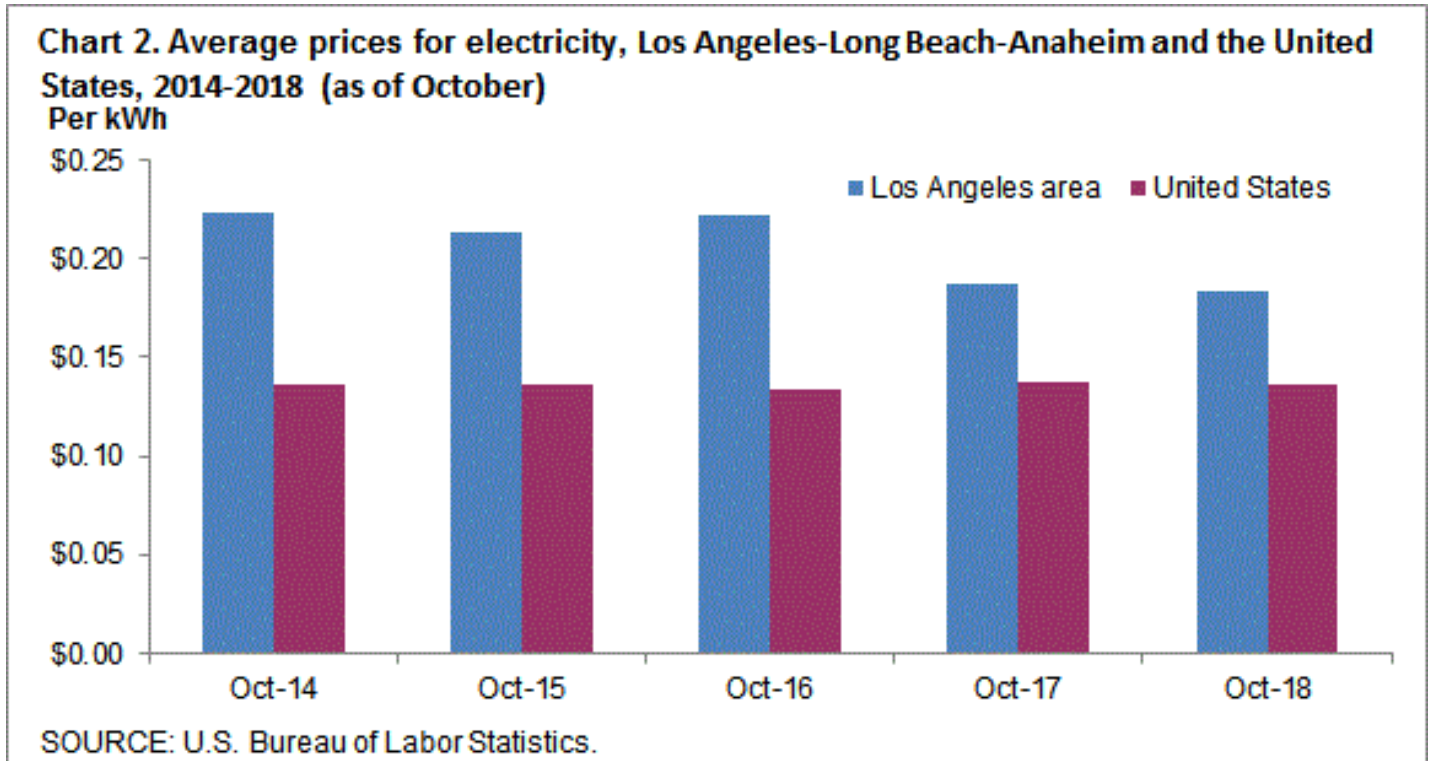
At \$3.844 a gallon, Los Angeles area consumers paid 30.5 percent more than the \$2.945 national average in October 2018. A year earlier, consumers in the Los Angeles area paid 18.5 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has ranged from 8.7 to 30.5 percent above the national average in the month of October during the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim and the United States, 2014-2018 (as of October)

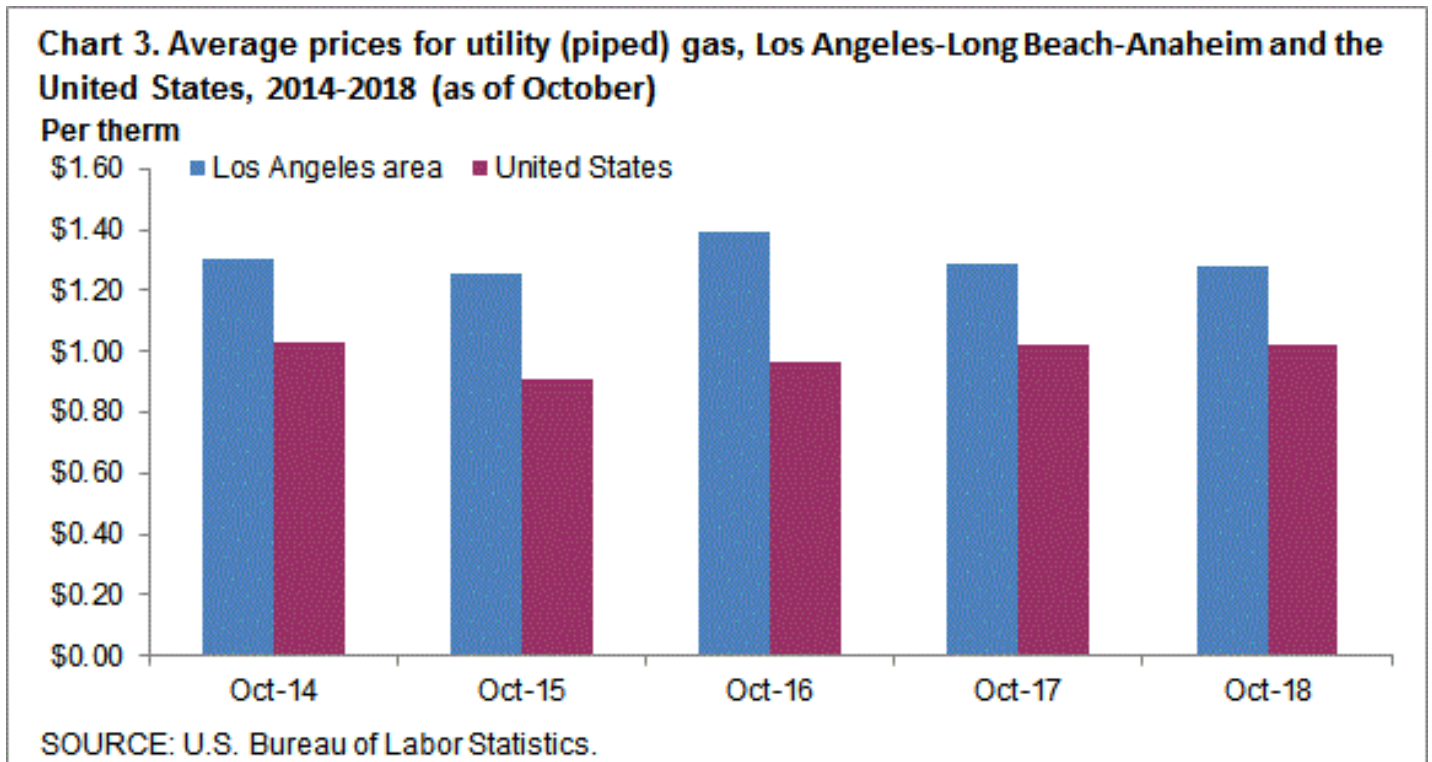


SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 18.4 cents per kWh Los Angeles households paid for electricity in October 2018 was 35.3 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.6 cents per kWh. Last October, electricity costs were 36.5 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 35.3 percent or more in the month of October. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Los Angeles area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.279 per therm, 25.0 percent more than the national average in October 2018 (\$1.023 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 26.5 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 October has varied between 25.0 percent and 45.0 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metropolitan area consists of Los Angeles and Orange 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, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim and the United States, October 2017- October 2018, 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
2017						
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
2018						
January.....	3.260	2.596	0.181	0.135	1.104	1.048
February.....	3.402	2.632	0.181	0.135	1.148	1.077
March.....	3.469	2.631	0.181	0.135	1.096	1.054
April.....	3.594	2.795	0.180	0.134	1.024	1.044
May.....	3.729	2.963	0.180	0.136	1.250	1.050
June.....	3.684	2.970	0.178	0.139	1.291	1.042
July.....	3.633	2.930	0.182	0.139	1.358	1.038
August.....	3.610	2.919	0.182	0.139	1.587	1.055
September.....	3.676	2.930	0.170	0.138	1.369	1.030
October.....	3.844	2.945	0.184	0.136	1.279	1.023