



For Release: Thursday, January 25, 2018

18-138-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

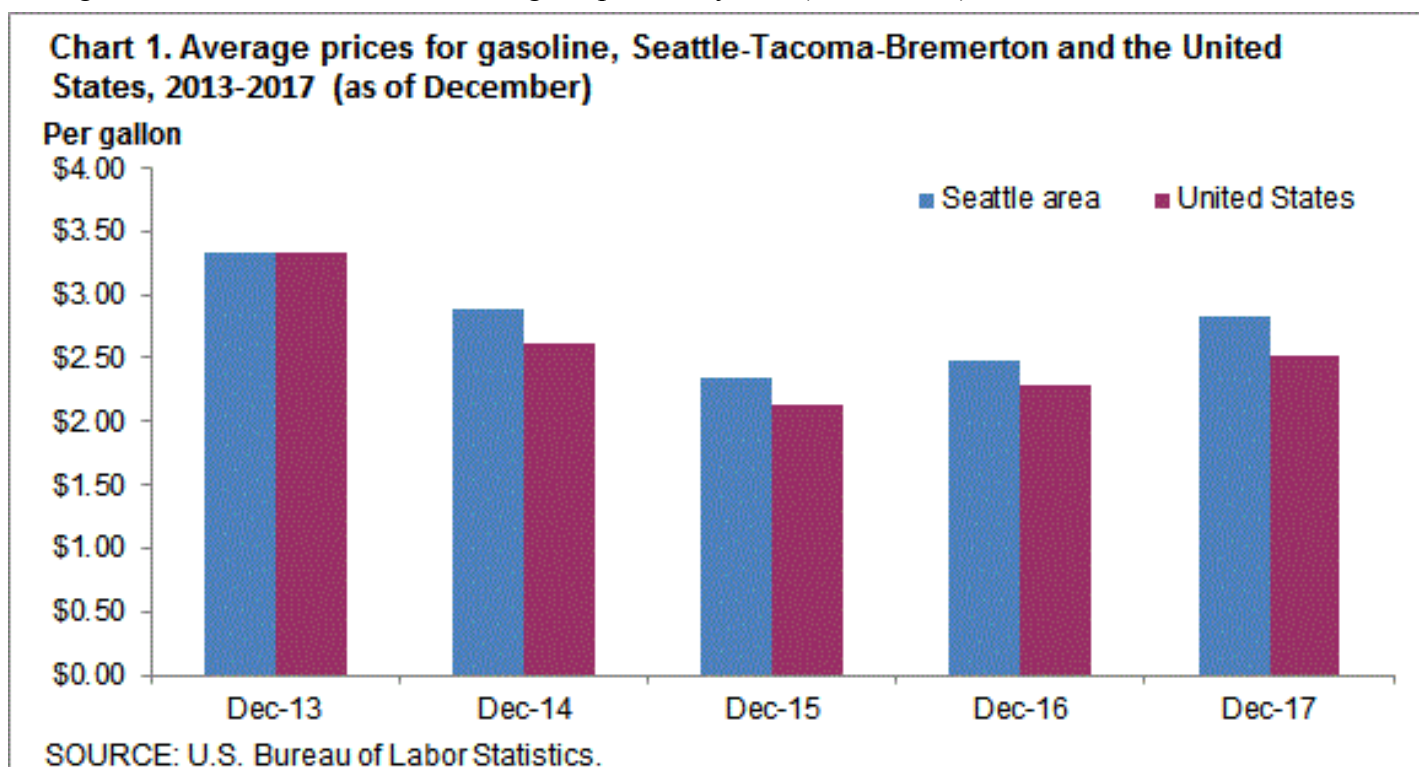
Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

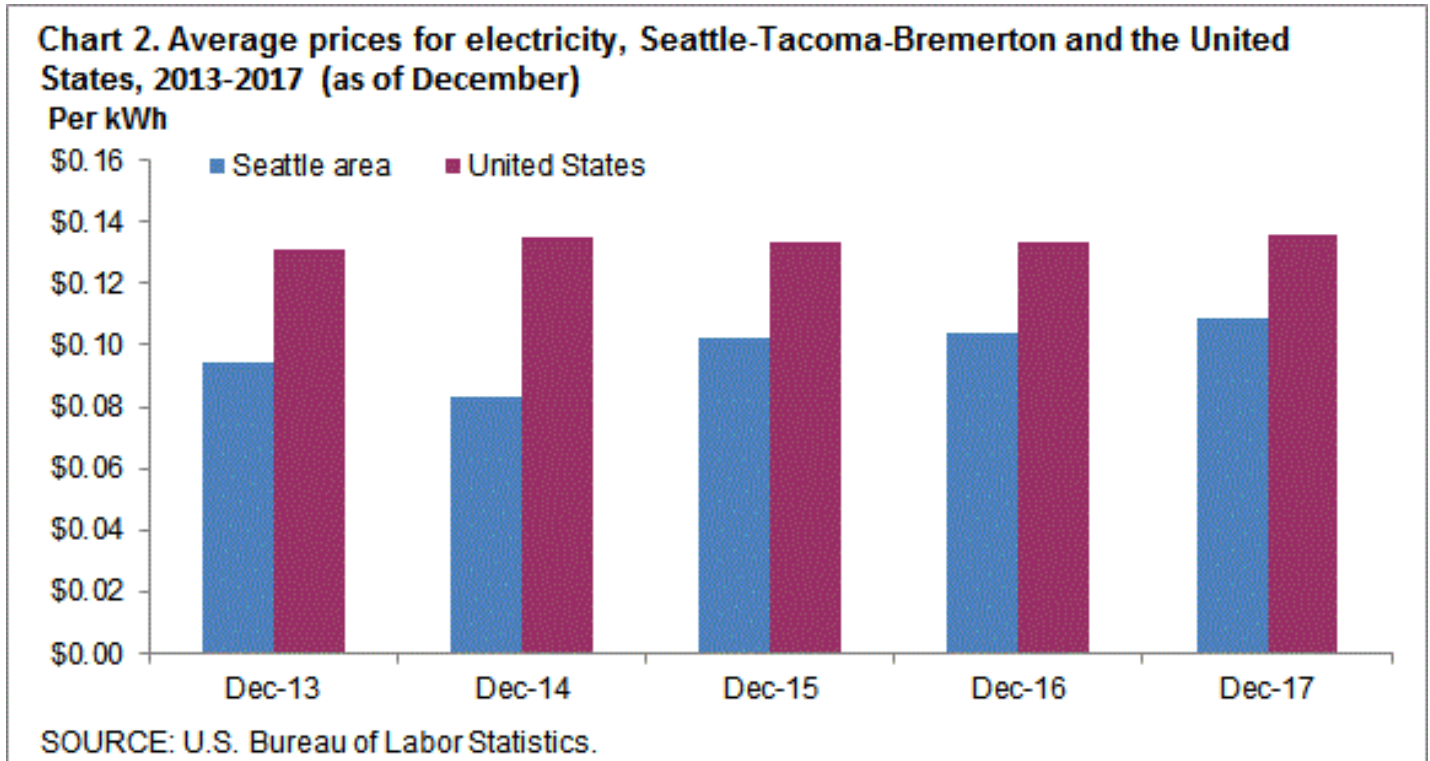
Average Energy Prices, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton – December 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.838 a gallon in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton 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 up 36.5 cents compared to last December when they averaged \$2.473 per gallon. Seattle area households paid an average of 10.9 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in December 2017, higher than the 10.4 cents per kWh paid in December 2016. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.078 per therm in December was less than to the \$1.122 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

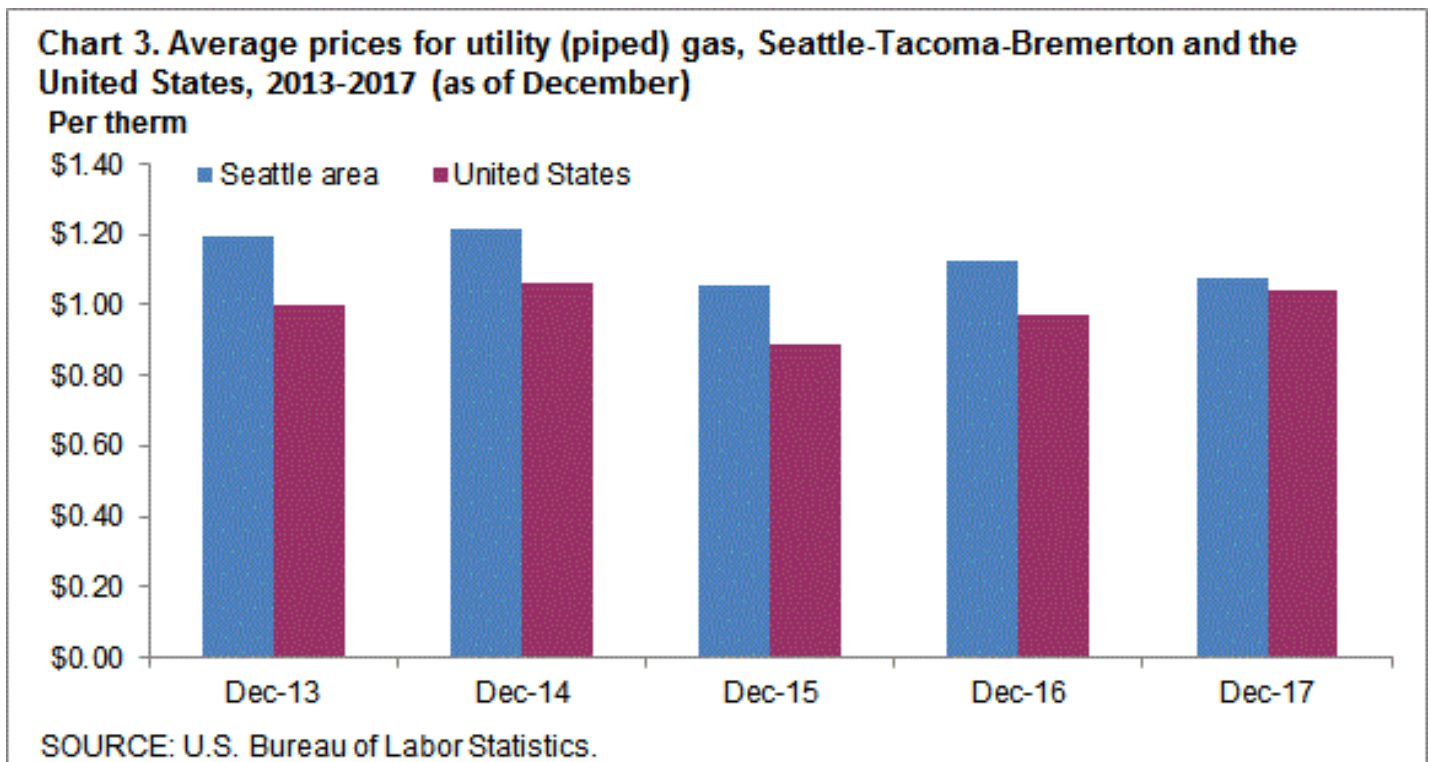
At \$2.838 a gallon, Seattle area consumers paid 12.6 percent more than the \$2.521 national average in December 2017. A year earlier, consumers in the Seattle area paid 8.0 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has been within 12.6 percent of the national average in the month of December during the past five years. (See [chart 1](#).)



The 10.9 cents per kWh Seattle households paid for electricity in December 2017 was 19.9 percent less than the nationwide average of 13.6 cents per kWh. Last December, electricity costs were 21.8 percent lower in Seattle compared to the nation. In each of the past five years during the month of December, prices paid by Seattle area consumers for electricity were less than the U.S. average by at least 19.9 percent. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Seattle area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.078 per therm, or 3.5 percent more compared to the national average in December 2017 (\$1.042 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 15.4 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in December in the Seattle area has varied between 3.5 percent and 19.7 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, December 2016-December 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						
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
March	2.726	2.386	0.106	0.134	1.122	0.989
April	2.790	2.479	0.111	0.135	1.122	1.000
May	2.765	2.448	0.112	0.137	1.149	1.036
June	2.722	2.400	0.112	0.142	1.150	1.040
July	2.704	2.344	0.112	0.143	1.150	1.031
August	2.767	2.436	0.112	0.142	1.150	1.027
September	2.953	2.688	0.112	0.142	1.150	1.018
October	2.809	2.545	0.109	0.137	1.150	1.020
November	2.900	2.608	0.109	0.136	1.127	1.028
December	2.838	2.521	0.109	0.136	1.078	1.042