



**For Release: Monday, September 17, 2018**

**18-1523-SAN**

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

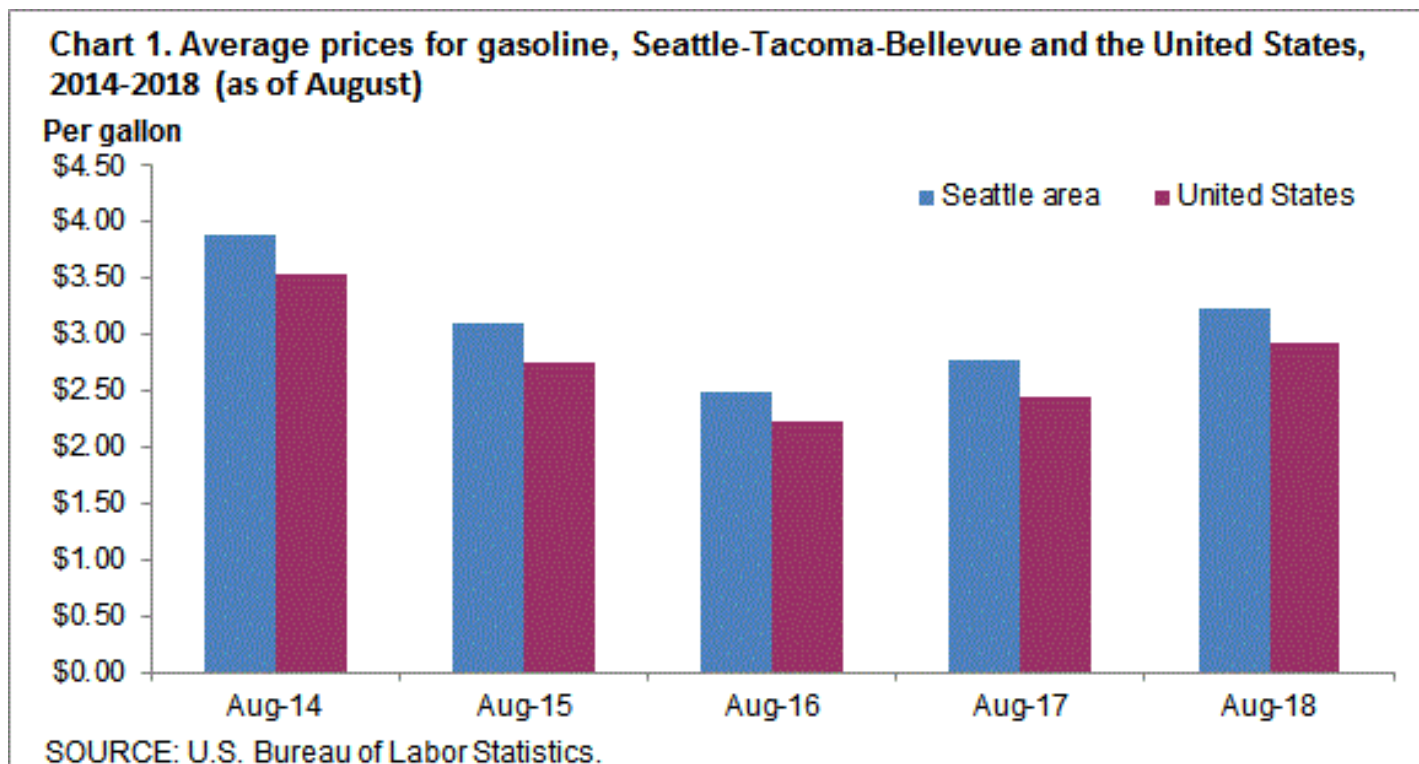
Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

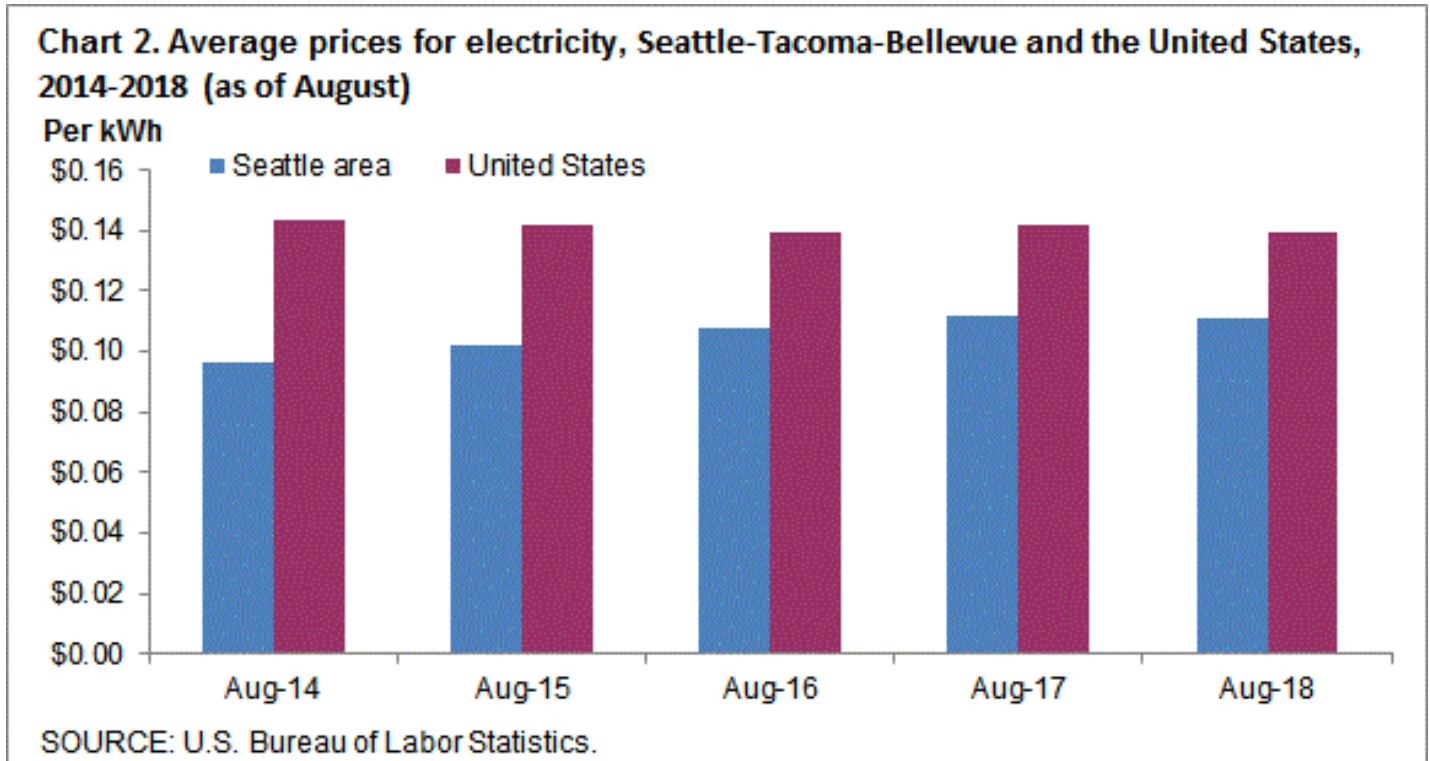
### Average Energy Prices, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue – August 2018

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.221 a gallon in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area in August 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that area gasoline prices were up 45.4 cents compared to last August when they averaged \$2.767 per gallon. Seattle area households paid an average of 11.1 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in August 2018, similar to the 11.2 cents per kWh paid in August 2017. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.083 per therm in August was less than the \$1.150 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

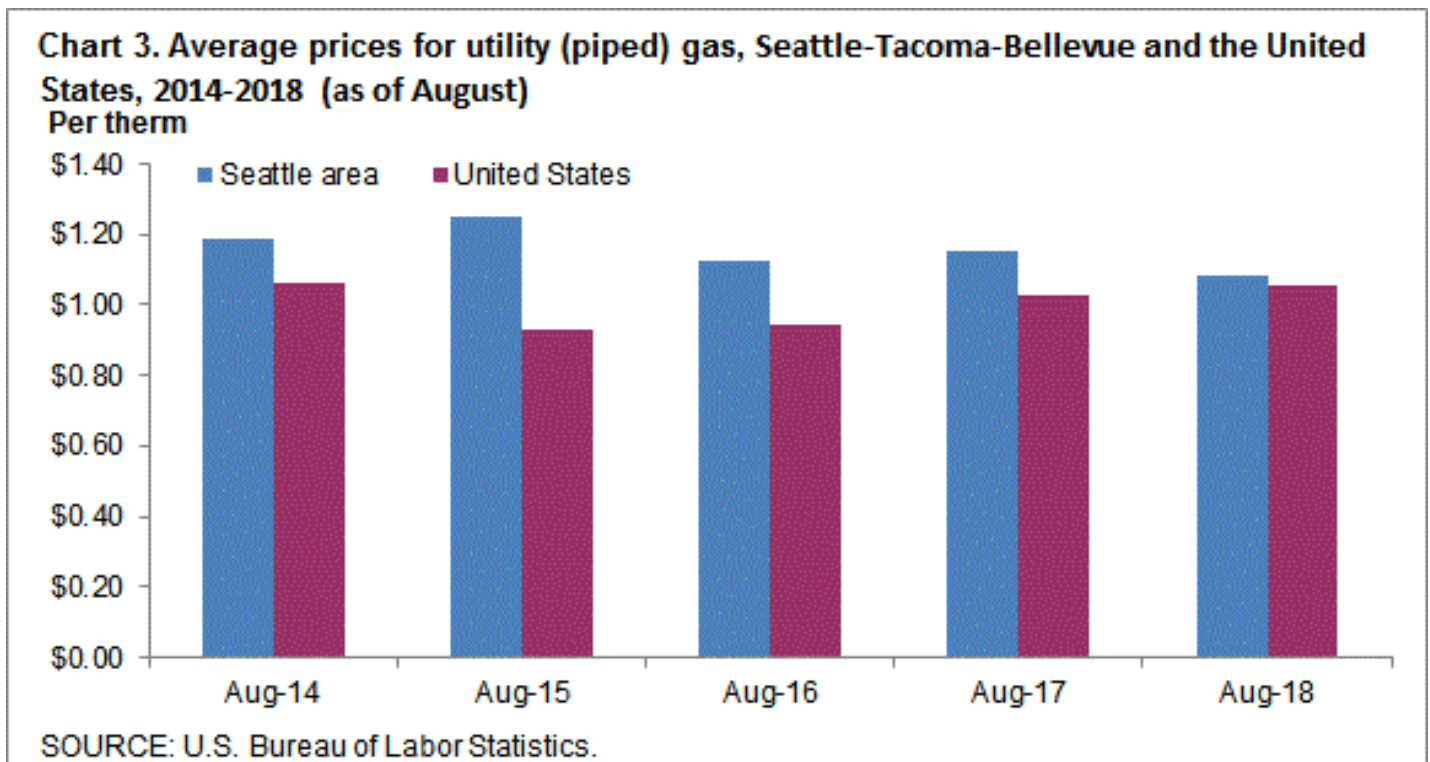
At \$3.221 a gallon, Seattle area consumers paid 10.3 percent more than the \$2.919 national average in August 2018. A year earlier, consumers in the Seattle area paid 13.6 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has been within 13.6 percent of the national average in the month of August during the past five years. (See [chart 1](#).)



The 11.1 cents per kWh Seattle households paid for electricity in August 2018 was 20.1 percent less than the nationwide average of 13.9 cents per kWh. Last August, electricity costs were 21.1 percent lower in Seattle compared to the nation. In each of the past five years during the month of August, prices paid by Seattle area consumers for electricity were less than the U.S. average by at least 20.1 percent. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Seattle area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.083 per therm, 2.7 percent higher than the national average in August 2018 (\$1.055 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 12.0 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in August in the Seattle area has varied between 2.7 percent and 34.1 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



The Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash. metropolitan area consists of 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, 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, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue and the United States, August 2017-August 2018, 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
<b>2017</b>						
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
<b>2018</b>						
January .....	2.839	2.596	0.111	0.135	1.078	1.048
February .....	<b>2.974</b>	<b>2.632</b>	<b>0.111</b>	<b>0.135</b>	<b>1.078</b>	<b>1.077</b>
March .....	3.023	2.631	0.111	0.135	1.078	1.054
April .....	<b>3.197</b>	<b>2.795</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>0.134</b>	<b>1.078</b>	<b>1.044</b>
May .....	3.346	2.963	0.111	0.136	1.086	1.050
June .....	<b>3.379</b>	<b>2.970</b>	<b>0.111</b>	<b>0.139</b>	<b>1.086</b>	<b>1.042</b>
July .....	3.311	2.930	0.111	0.139	1.086	1.038
August .....	<b>3.221</b>	<b>2.919</b>	<b>0.111</b>	<b>0.139</b>	<b>1.083</b>	<b>1.055</b>