

NEW YORK – NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE
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AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES IN NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY – FEBRUARY 2012

New York area consumers paid prices well above the U.S. city average for electricity and utility (piped) gas in February, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Electricity prices were 45.3 percent higher in New York than nationwide and area utility (piped) gas prices were 12.8 percent higher. In comparison, the price of gasoline was 4.0 percent higher than the national average. Deborah A. Brown, the Bureau's acting regional commissioner, noted that the gap between area and national prices for utility (piped) gas narrowed significantly over the year as local prices for utility (piped) gas decreased at a faster rate. Prices for gasoline increased for both the New York area and the United States. (See table A. Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Table A. Average prices for energy products, United States and the New York area, February 2011 and February 2012

| Energy product | February 2011 | | | February 2012 | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | United States | New York area | Percent difference | United States | New York area | Percent difference |
| Electricity (per KWH) | 0.125 | 0.191 | 52.8 | 0.128 | 0.186 | 45.3 |
| Utility (piped) gas (per therm) | 1.095 | 1.390 | 26.9 | 0.986 | 1.112 | 12.8 |
| Gasoline (per gallon) | 3.215 | 3.318 | 3.2 | 3.622 | 3.767 | 4.0 |

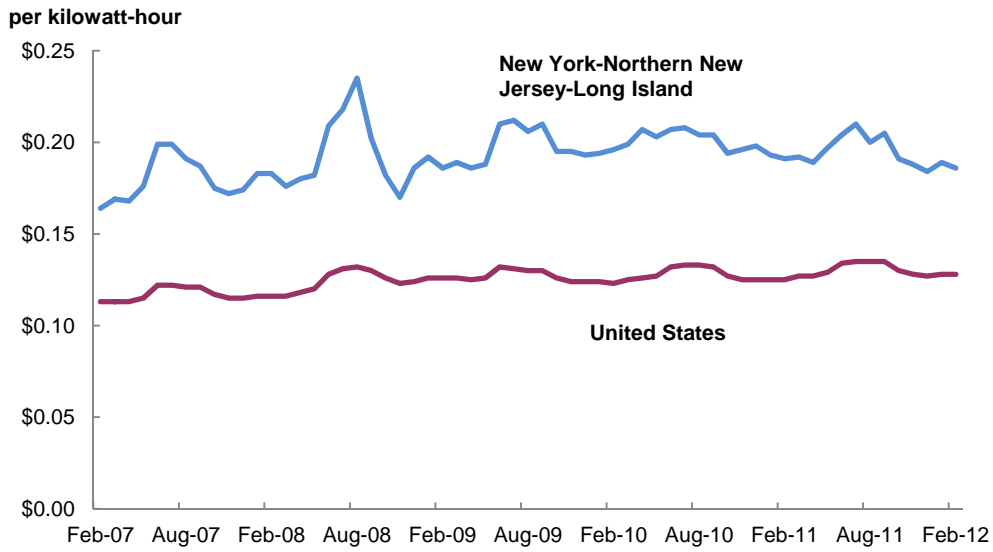
NOTE: A positive percent difference measures how much the price in the New York area is above the national price, while a negative difference reflects a lower price in the New York area.

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity cost New York area consumers \$0.186 in February 2012, decreasing 2.6 percent from the previous year. Nationwide, electricity prices rose 2.4 percent over the same period. Over the last five years, New York prices have generally stayed 40.0 percent or more above the national level. (See chart 1.)



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York-New Jersey Information Office's** main telephone number: **(646) 264-3600**. For recorded messages, press '2'.

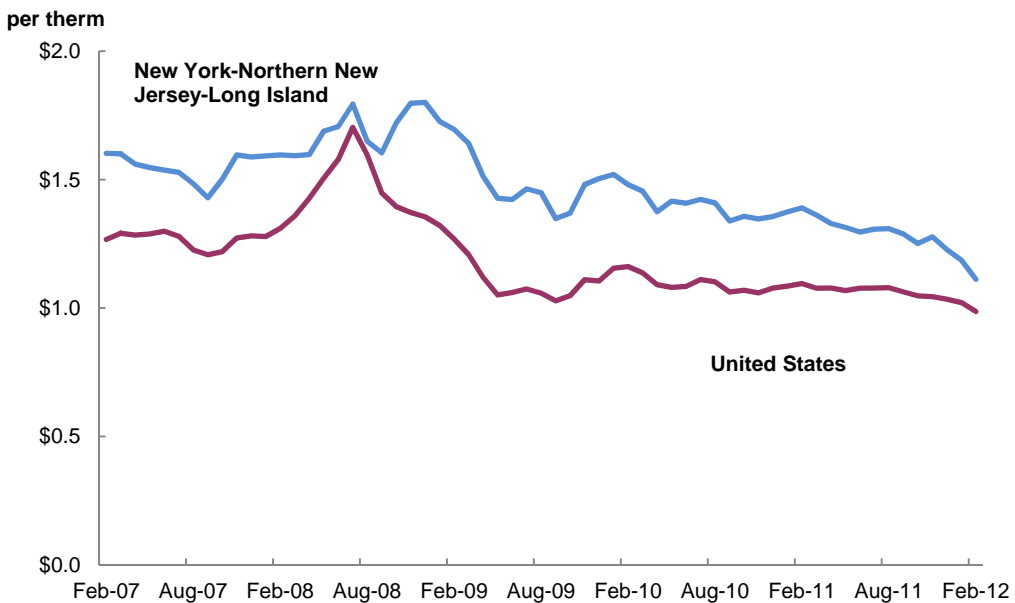
Chart 1. Average prices for electricity, New York-Northern New Jersey and the United States, February 2007 - February 2012



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A therm—a measure of constant heating value—of utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, in the New York area averaged \$1.112 in February 2012, a decline of 20.0 percent from the previous February. Nationwide, a therm averaged \$0.986 in February 2012, a decrease of 10.0 percent over the year. At 12.8 percent, the February percent differential between local and national prices for natural gas was among the narrowest since April 2008. (See chart 2.)

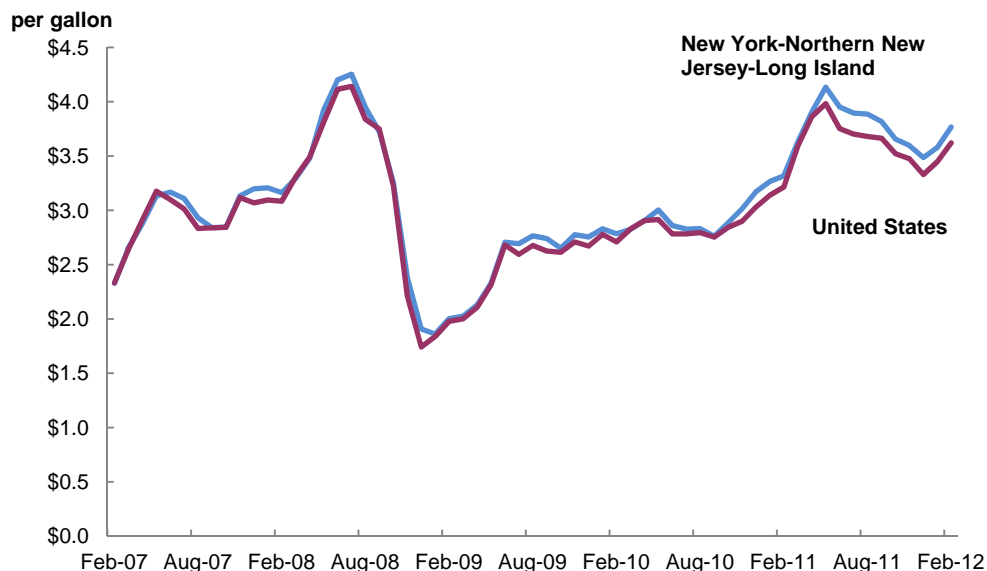
Chart 2. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, New York-Northern New Jersey and the United States, February 2007 - February 2012



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

In February 2012, a gallon of gasoline averaged \$3.767 in the New York area, an increase of 13.5 percent. Nationally, gasoline averaged \$3.622, a 12.7 percent increase. Over the past two years, the gap between prices in the area and the nation has fluctuated around 3.0 percent, ranging as high as 5.6 percent and as low as -0.1 percent. (See chart 3.)

Chart 3. Average prices for gasoline, New York-Northern New Jersey and the United States, February 2007 - February 2012



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Additional information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the CPI data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the New York Information Office at (646) 264-3600 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys and programs is available on our Web site at www.bls.gov/ro2/.

Technical Information

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) and per 500 kWh are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm, per 40 therms, and per 100 therms 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.

Price quotes for 40 therms and 100 therms of utility (piped) gas and for 500 kWh of electricity are collected in sample outlets for use in the average price programs only. Since they are for specified consumption amounts, they are not used in the CPI. All other price quotes used for average price estimation are regular CPI data.

With the exception of the 40 therms, 100 therms, and 500 kWh price quotes, 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.

Table 1. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline, United States and New York-Northern New Jersey area, February 2011 - February 2012

| Year and month | Electricity per kilowatt hour | | Utility (piped) gas per therm | | Gasoline, all types, per gallon | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| | U.S. city average | New York- Northern New Jersey | U.S. city average | New York- Northern New Jersey | U.S. city average | New York- Northern New Jersey |
| 2011 | | | | | | |
| February | 0.125 | 0.191 | 1.095 | 1.390 | 3.215 | 3.318 |
| March | 0.127 | 0.192 | 1.077 | 1.362 | 3.594 | 3.632 |
| April | 0.127 | 0.189 | 1.078 | 1.329 | 3.863 | 3.901 |
| May | 0.129 | 0.197 | 1.068 | 1.314 | 3.982 | 4.134 |
| June | 0.134 | 0.204 | 1.077 | 1.296 | 3.753 | 3.952 |
| July | 0.135 | 0.210 | 1.078 | 1.307 | 3.703 | 3.896 |
| August | 0.135 | 0.200 | 1.079 | 1.309 | 3.680 | 3.886 |
| September | 0.135 | 0.205 | 1.063 | 1.288 | 3.664 | 3.818 |
| October | 0.130 | 0.191 | 1.047 | 1.251 | 3.521 | 3.655 |
| November | 0.128 | 0.188 | 1.044 | 1.277 | 3.475 | 3.597 |
| December | 0.127 | 0.184 | 1.034 | 1.227 | 3.329 | 3.486 |
| 2012 | | | | | | |
| January | 0.128 | 0.189 | 1.021 | 1.186 | 3.447 | 3.578 |
| February | 0.128 | 0.186 | 0.986 | 1.112 | 3.622 | 3.767 |