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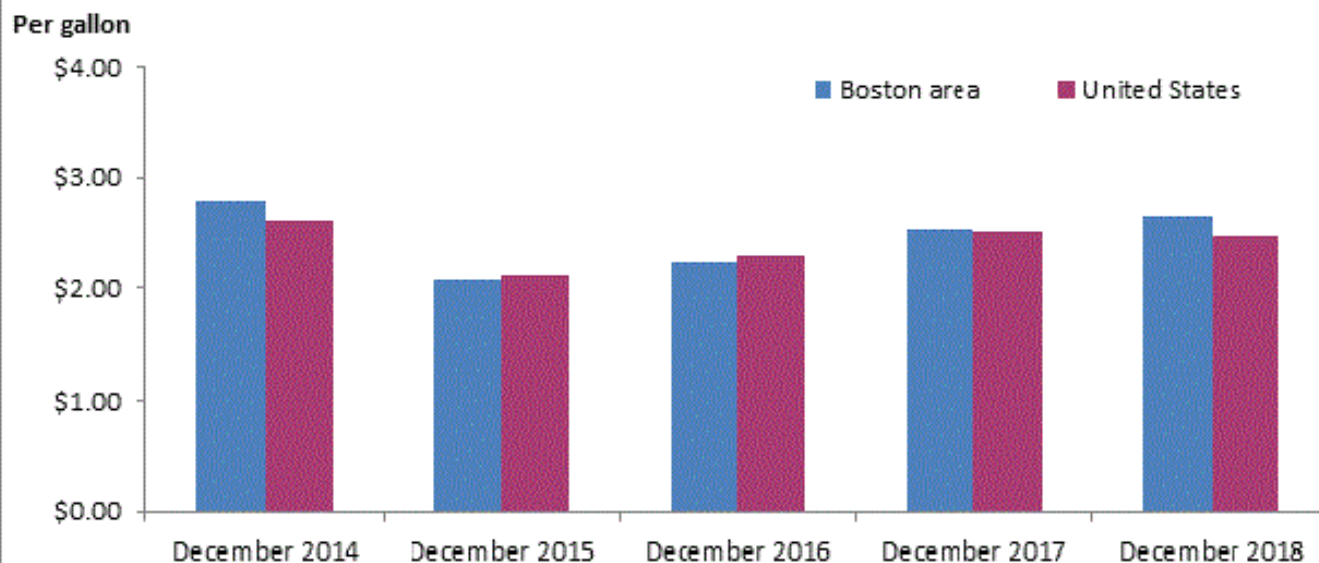
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## Average Energy Prices In Boston-Cambridge-Newton – December 2018

Boston area households paid an average of \$2.651 a gallon for gasoline in December 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that area gasoline prices were up 11.9 cents, compared to last December when they averaged \$2.532 per gallon. The average cost of electricity at 22.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) in December, was 1.1 cents greater than the 21.4 cents spent last year. Utility (piped) gas prices averaged \$1.538 per therm in the Boston area in December 2018, up 8.3 cents from a year ago when they averaged \$1.455 per therm. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

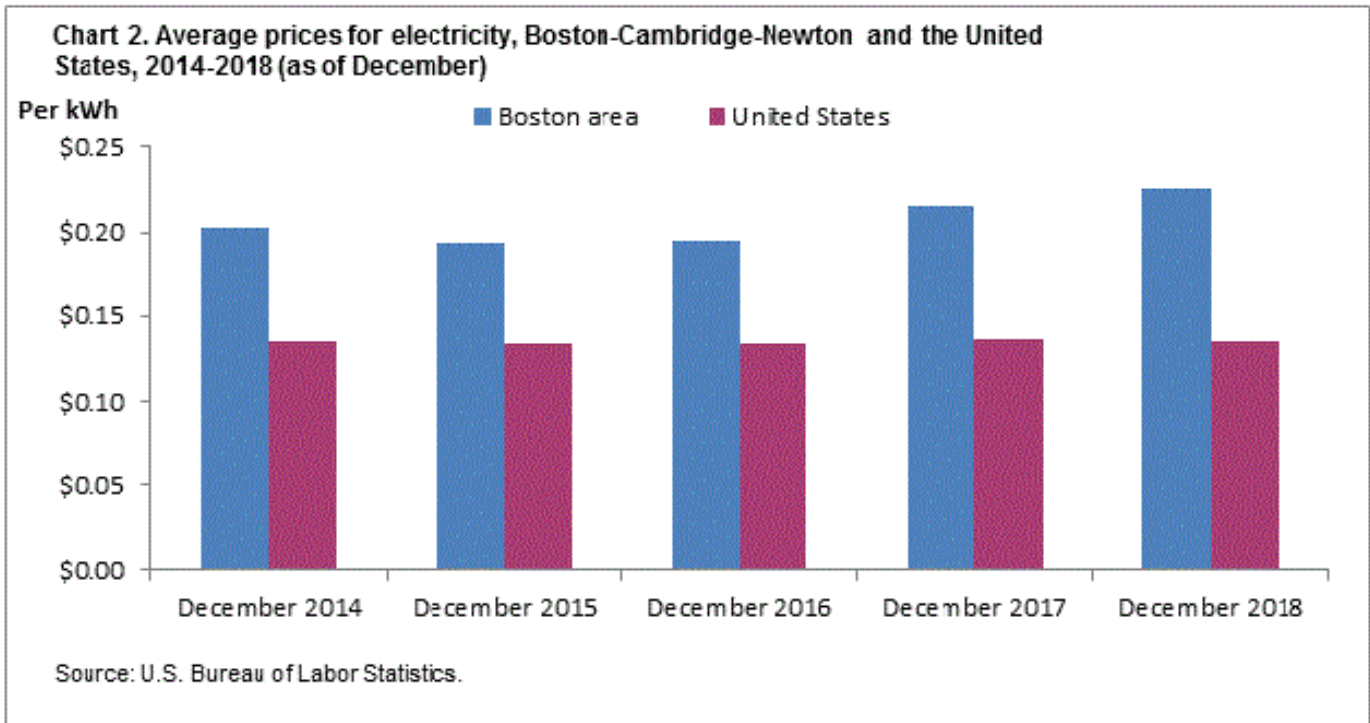
Boston area consumers paid \$2.651 a gallon for gasoline which was 6.9 percent higher than the national average of \$2.479 in December 2018. One year ago, consumers in the Boston area paid \$2.532, which was similar to the national average of \$2.521 for a gallon of gasoline. (See chart 1.)

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Boston-Cambridge-Newton and the United States, 2014-2018 (as of December)**

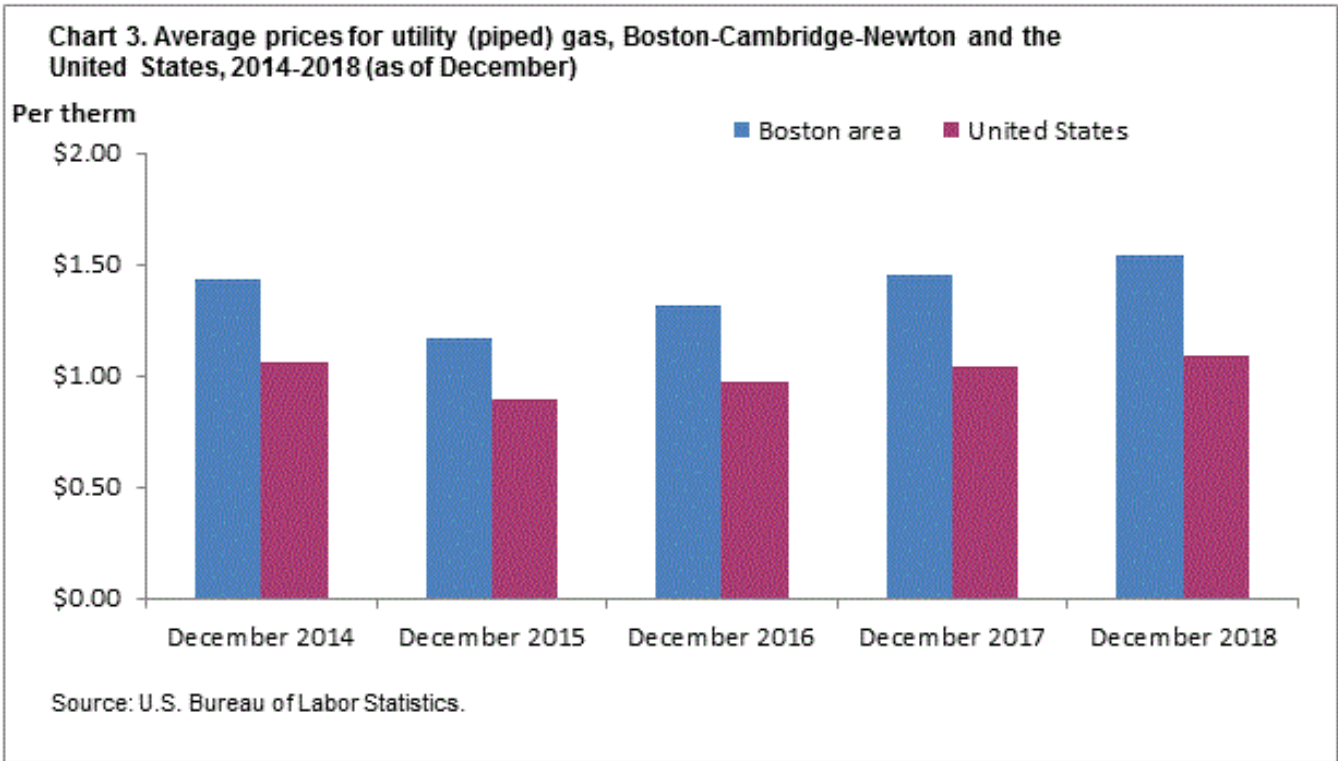


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 22.5 cents per kWh Boston households paid for electricity in December 2018 was 66.7 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.5 cents per kWh. Last December, electricity costs were 57.4 percent higher in Boston compared to the nation. In each of the last five years, the price of electricity in Boston has exceeded that for the nation in the month of December, by 45.9 percent or more. (See chart 2.)



Prices paid by Boston area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.538 per therm, 41.8 percent higher than the national average in December 2018 (\$1.085 per therm). In December of 2017 local prices were 39.6 percent higher than those of the nation (\$1.042). In each of the last five years, the price of utility (piped) gas in Boston has exceeded that for the nation in the month of December, by 30.7 percent or more. (See chart 3.)



The Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Mass.-N.H. Core Based Statistical Area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk Counties in Massachusetts; Rockingham, Strafford Counties in New Hampshire.

**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: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Boston-Cambridge-Newton and the United States, December 2017 - December 2018, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and month	Gasoline, all types, per gallon		Electricity per kilowatt hour		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Boston area	United States	Boston area	United States	Boston area	United States
2017 .....						
December .....	2.532	2.521	0.214	0.136	1.455	1.042
2018 .....						
January.....	2.552	2.596	0.233	0.135	- (1)	1.048
February.....	2.592	2.632	0.227	0.135	1.623	1.077
March .....	2.592	2.631	0.228	0.135	1.720	1.054
April .....	2.731	2.795	0.225	0.134	1.720	1.044
May.....	2.909	2.963	0.219	0.136	1.142	1.050
June.....	2.939	2.970	0.219	0.139	1.143	1.042
July .....	2.906	2.930	0.213	0.139	1.128	1.038
August .....	2.893	2.919	0.216	0.139	1.128	1.055
September.....	2.891	2.930	0.216	0.138	1.128	1.030
October.....	2.862	2.945	0.216	0.136	1.128	1.023
November .....	2.790	2.733	0.225	0.134	1.499	1.020
December .....	2.651	2.479	0.225	0.135	1.538	1.085

Footnotes:

(1) Data inadequate for publication