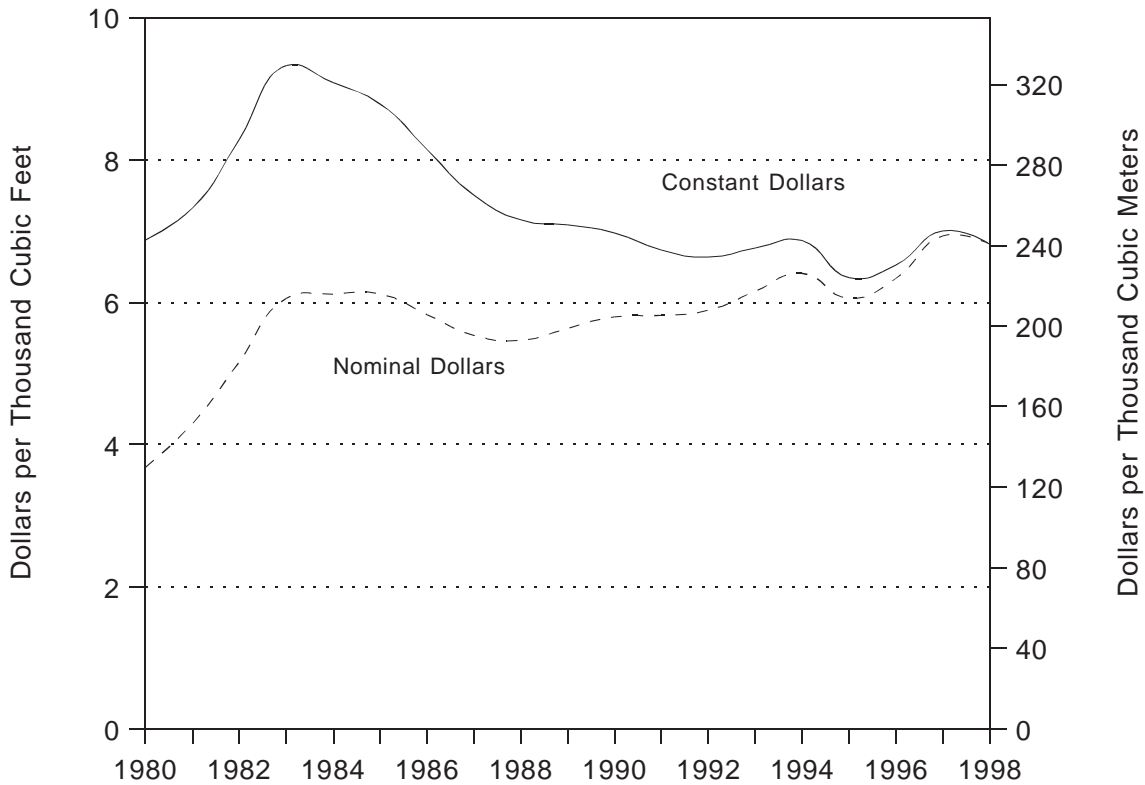


cubic feet in 1997 to \$3.14 in 1998. This decline was influenced by the decrease in the wellhead price that occurred during the same period.

- Electric utility prices reflect natural gas consumption by all large electric utilities and do not include gas consumed by nonutility power producers. Between 1997 and 1998 the price paid by electric utilities for natural gas declined by \$0.38 per thousand cubic feet, matching the drop in the average wellhead price. The average electric utility price fell from \$2.78 per thousand cubic feet in 1997 to \$2.40.

- Most of the natural gas delivered for vehicle fuel represents deliveries to refueling stations that are used primarily by fleet vehicles. Thus, the prices are often those associated with the operation of fleet vehicles and may be based on internal transfer prices for companies primarily in the natural gas business. The average price paid for deliveries of natural gas for vehicle fuel use increased 3 percent, from \$4.44 per thousand cubic feet in 1997 to \$4.59 per thousand cubic feet in 1998, and was associated with a very small volume of deliveries.

Figure 14. Average Price of Natural Gas Delivered to Residential Consumers, 1980-1998



Sources: Nominal dollars: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Form EIA-176, "Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition." Constant dollars: Prices were converted to 1998 dollars using the chain-type price indexes for Gross Domestic Product (1992 = 1.0) as published by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.