

NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE
Boston, Mass.

For release: July 25, 2012

12-1510-BOS

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AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES IN BOSTON-BROCKTON-NASHUA – JUNE 2012

Boston area consumers paid 10.4 percent more than the U.S. city average for electricity in June, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. In contrast, utility (piped) gas and gasoline prices were lower in Boston than nationwide. Deborah A. Brown, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that prices for utility (piped) gas and gasoline decreased over the year both nationally and in Boston, but at a faster rate locally. (See table A.)

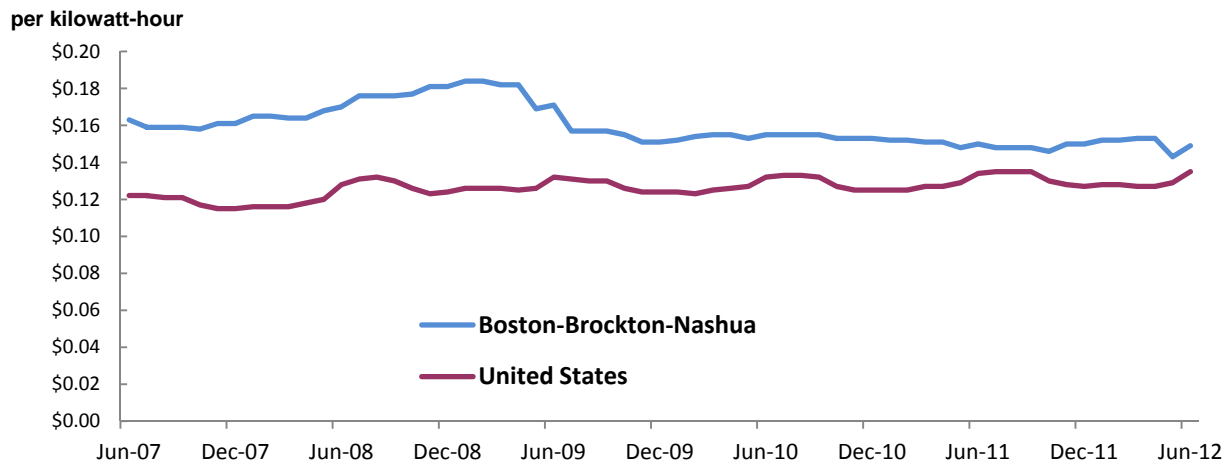
Table A. Average prices of selected energy products, United States and the Boston area, June 2011 and June 2012

Energy product	June 2011			June 2012		
	United States	Boston area	Percent difference	United States	Boston area	Percent difference
Electricity (per KWH)	0.134	0.150	11.9	0.135	0.149	10.4
Utility (piped) gas (per therm)	1.077	1.056	-1.9	0.927	0.863	-6.9
Gasoline (per gallon)	3.753	3.797	1.2	3.602	3.528	-2.1

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

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity cost Boston area consumers \$0.149 in June 2012, little changed from one year earlier. Nationwide, electricity prices averaged \$0.135 in June 2012, nearly unchanged from the previous year. Over the last five years, the price of electricity in Boston always exceeded that for the nation; however, the gap has narrowed considerably, remaining under 25.0 percent since March 2010. (See chart 1.)

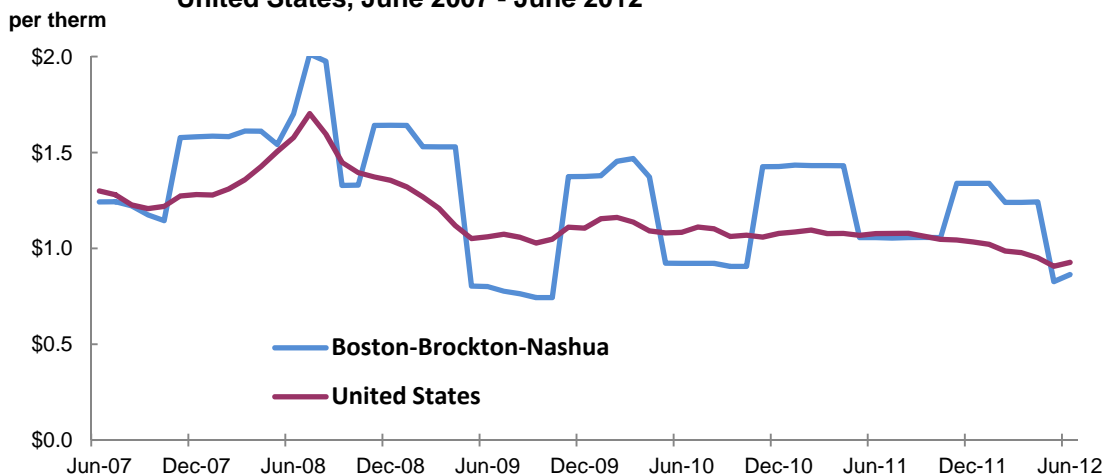
Chart 1. Average prices for electricity, Boston area and the United States, June 2007 - June 2012



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 Boston area averaged \$0.863 in June 2012, a decrease of 18.3 percent from the previous year. Nationwide, a therm averaged \$0.927 in June 2012, down 13.9 percent over the year. Local natural gas prices are more subject to seasonal price fluctuations, compared with the nation. (See chart 2.)

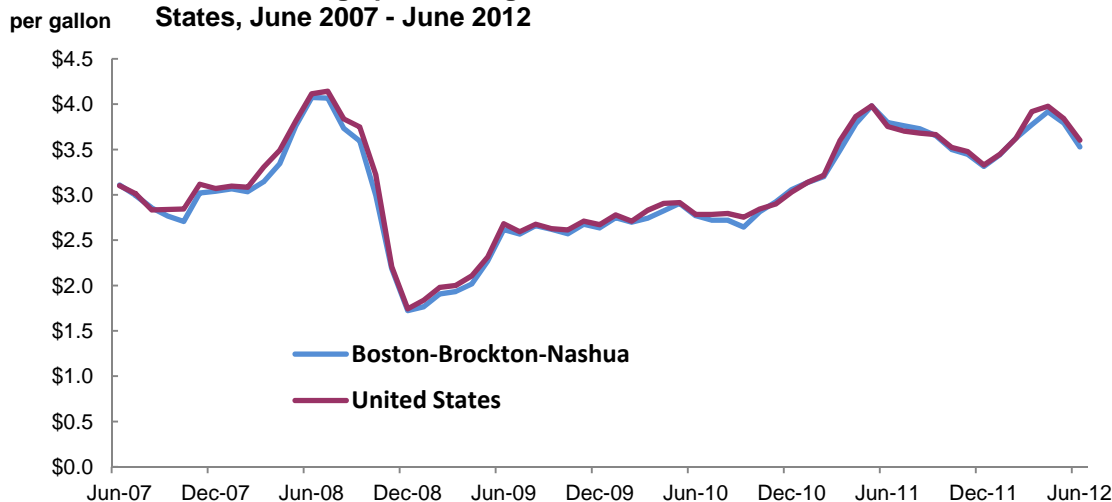
Chart 2. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Boston area and the United States, June 2007 - June 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

In June 2012, a gallon of gasoline averaged \$3.528 in the Boston area, about 7 cents less than the national average of \$3.602. Over the year, prices in Boston fell 7.1 percent, compared with the nationwide decrease of 4.0 percent. Although gasoline prices can be volatile from month to month, national and local prices have moved in tandem over the last five years. (See chart 3.)

Chart 3. Average prices for gasoline, Boston area and the United States, June 2007 - June 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Mass.-N.H.-Maine-Conn. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk Counties and parts of Bristol, Hampden, and Worcester Counties in Massachusetts; parts of Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire; part of York County in Maine; and part of Windham County in Connecticut.

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 Boston Information Office at (617) 565-2327 from 8:30 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/ro1/.

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 B. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, electricity, and gasoline, United States and the Boston-Brockton-Nashua area, June 2011 – June 2012

Year and month	Utility (piped) gas per therm		Electricity per kilowatt hour		Gasoline, all types, per gallon	
	U.S. city average	Boston- Brockton- Nashua	U.S. city average	Boston- Brockton- Nashua	U.S. city average	Boston- Brockton- Nashua
2011						
June	1.077	1.056	0.134	0.150	3.753	3.797
July	1.078	1.054	0.135	0.148	3.703	3.761
August	1.079	1.056	0.135	0.148	3.680	3.727
September	1.063	1.057	0.135	0.148	3.664	3.652
October	1.047	1.056	0.130	0.146	3.521	3.499
November	1.044	1.339	0.128	0.150	3.475	3.445
December	1.034	1.339	0.127	0.150	3.329	3.314
2012						
January	1.021	1.339	0.128	0.152	3.447	3.442
February	0.986	1.240	0.128	0.152	3.622	3.623
March	0.978	1.240	0.127	0.153	3.918	3.773
April	0.951	1.242	0.127	0.153	3.976	3.917
May	0.907	0.827	0.129	0.143	3.839	3.791
June	0.927	0.863	0.135	0.149	3.602	3.528