

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE  
San Francisco, Calif.

For release Wednesday, September 5, 2012

12-1823-SAN

Technical information: (415) 625-2286  
Media contact: (415) 625-2270

• BLSinfoSF@bls.gov

• www.bls.gov/ro9

**AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA—  
JULY 2012**

San Francisco area consumers paid more than the U.S. city average for electricity (63.9 percent), utility (piped) gas (46.9 percent), and gasoline (8.6 percent) in July 2012, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted the gap between area and national utility (piped) gas prices widened over the year as local prices fell at a slower rate than those for the nation. The percent differential for gasoline also increased as prices were essentially unchanged locally while nationwide the prices decreased. (See table A.) (All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

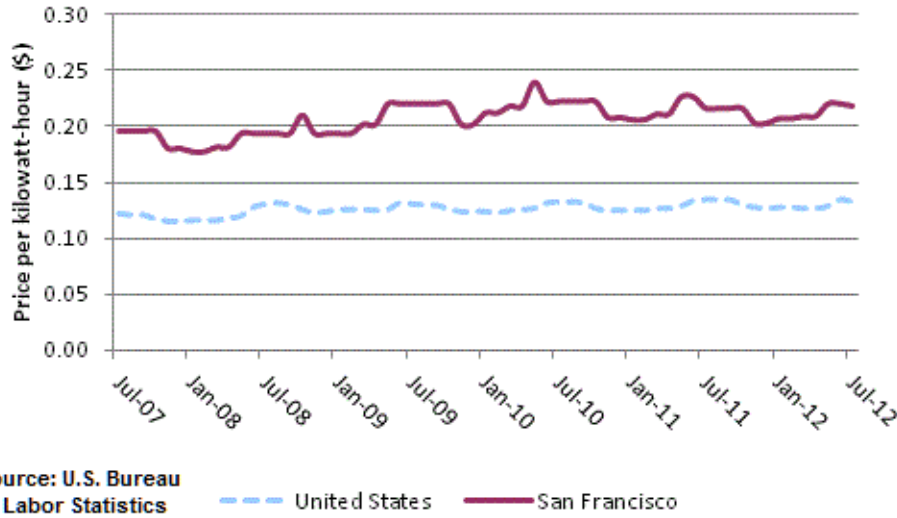
**Table A. Average prices of selected energy products, United States and San Francisco area, July 2011 and July 2012**

	July 2011			July 2012		
	United States	San Francisco	Percent Difference	United States	San Francisco	Percent Difference
<b>Electricity (per KWH)</b>	\$0.135	\$0.216	60.0	\$0.133	\$0.218	63.9
<b>Utility (piped) gas per therm</b>	1.078	1.477	37.0	0.943	1.385	46.9
<b>Gasoline per gallon</b>	3.703	3.842	3.8	3.502	3.804	8.6

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

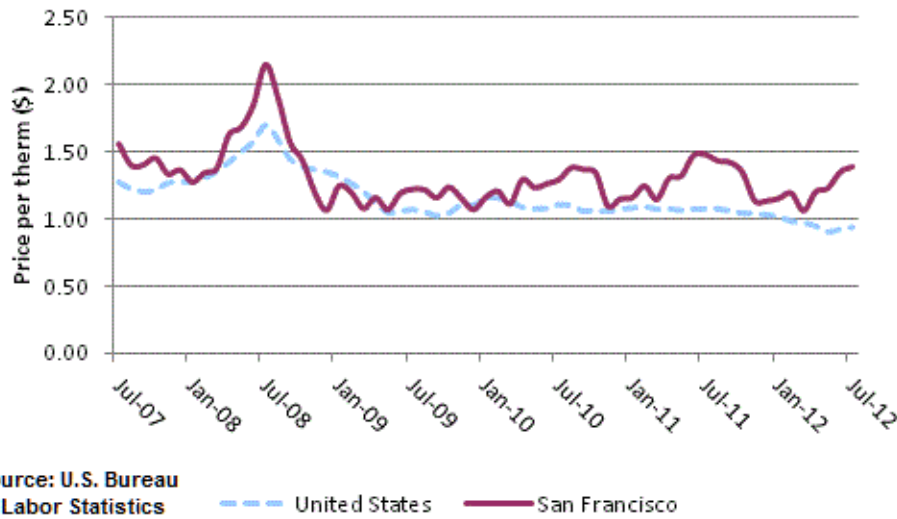
A kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity cost San Francisco area consumers \$0.218 in July 2012, little changed from a one year earlier. Nationwide, electricity prices averaged \$0.133 in July 2012, close to the previous year's price. For the past five years, electricity prices in the San Francisco area have been consistently above the national average and ranged from approximately 47.0 percent to over 88.0 percent higher. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

**Chart 1. Average prices for electricity, United States and the San Francisco area, July 2007 - July 2012**



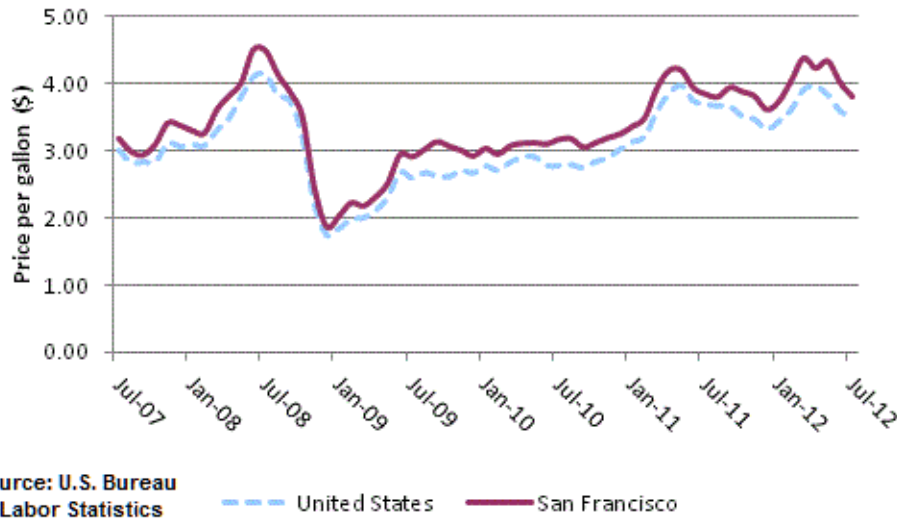
A therm—a measure of constant heating value—of utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, averaged \$1.385 in the San Francisco area in July 2012, a decrease of 6.2 percent from the previous July. Nationwide, a therm averaged \$0.943 in July 2012, down 12.5 percent over the year. (See chart 2.)

**Chart 2. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, United States and the San Francisco area, July 2007 - July 2012**



In July 2012, gasoline in San Francisco averaged \$3.804 per gallon. Gas prices in San Francisco were \$0.302 or 8.6 percent higher than the national average of \$3.502. Over the year, gasoline prices were little changed in San Francisco and down 5.4 percent nationwide. Although gasoline prices can be volatile from month to month, the local price for gasoline has not fallen below the U.S. city average for the past five years. (See chart 3.)

**Chart 3. Average prices for gasoline, United States and the San Francisco area, July 2007 - July 2012**



**Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) Definition:** The San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Calif. metropolitan area is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma Counties in California.

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.

### 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 the San Francisco area, July 2011 – July 2012, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and Month	Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm		Gasoline per gallon	
	United States	San Francisco	United States	San Francisco	United States	San Francisco
<b>July 2011</b>	\$0.135	\$0.216	\$1.078	\$1.477	\$3.703	\$3.842
<b>August 2011</b>	0.135	0.216	1.079	1.430	3.680	3.799
<b>September 2011</b>	0.135	0.216	1.063	1.418	3.664	3.942
<b>October 2011</b>	0.130	0.216	1.047	1.344	3.521	3.877
<b>November 2011</b>	0.128	0.203	1.044	1.131	3.475	3.811
<b>December 2011</b>	0.127	0.203	1.034	1.129	3.329	3.611
<b>January 2012</b>	0.128	0.207	1.021	1.148	3.447	3.736
<b>February 2012</b>	0.128	0.207	0.986	1.187	3.622	4.040
<b>March 2012</b>	0.127	0.209	0.978	1.055	3.918	4.375
<b>April 2012</b>	0.127	0.209	0.951	1.197	3.976	4.230
<b>May 2012</b>	0.129	0.220	0.907	1.224	3.839	4.331
<b>June 2012</b>	0.135	0.220	0.927	1.345	3.602	4.012
<b>July 2012</b>	0.133	0.218	0.943	1.385	3.502	3.804