

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE
Chicago, Ill.

For release: Thursday, October 11, 2012

12-1861-CHI

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 • BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro5
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES IN THE CLEVELAND AREA – AUGUST 2012

Cleveland area consumers paid 27.6 percent less than the U.S. city average for utility (piped) gas in August 2012, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the percent difference in prices between the area and the nation for utility (piped) gas widened over the year as the local price fell faster than the national average. Local prices for electricity and gasoline rose over the year. (See table A.) (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

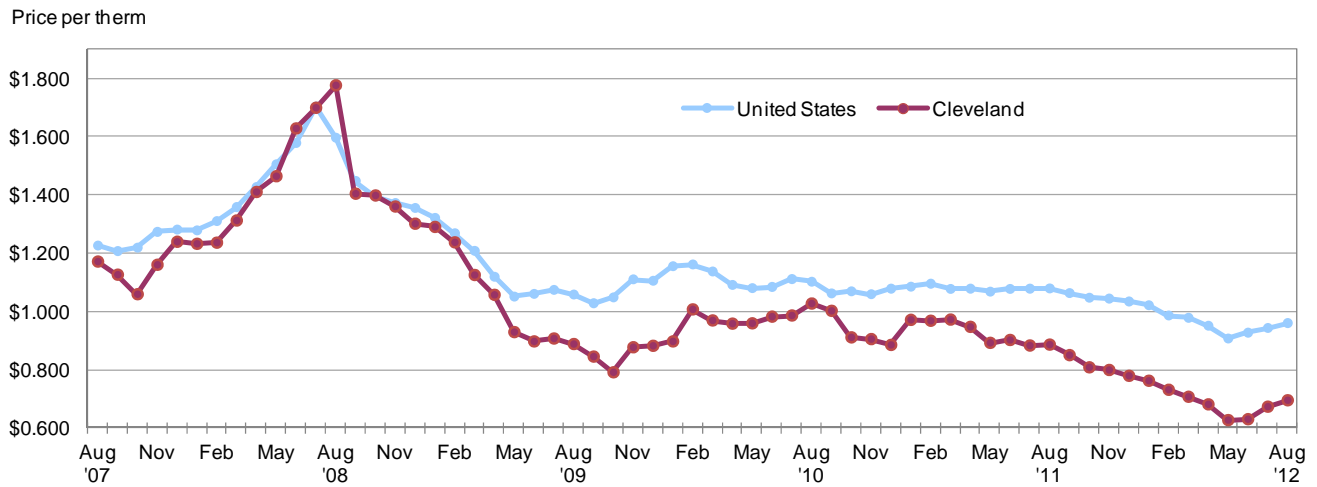
Table A. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, electricity, and gasoline, United States and Cleveland area, August 2011 and August 2012, not seasonally adjusted

	August 2011			August 2012		
	United States	Cleveland area	Percent difference	United States	Cleveland area	Percent difference
Utility (piped) gas per therm	\$1.079	\$0.886	-17.9	\$0.960	\$0.695	-27.6
Electricity (per Kwh)	0.135	0.128	-5.2	0.133	0.133	0.0
Gasoline per gallon	3.680	3.607	-2.0	3.759	3.768	0.2

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

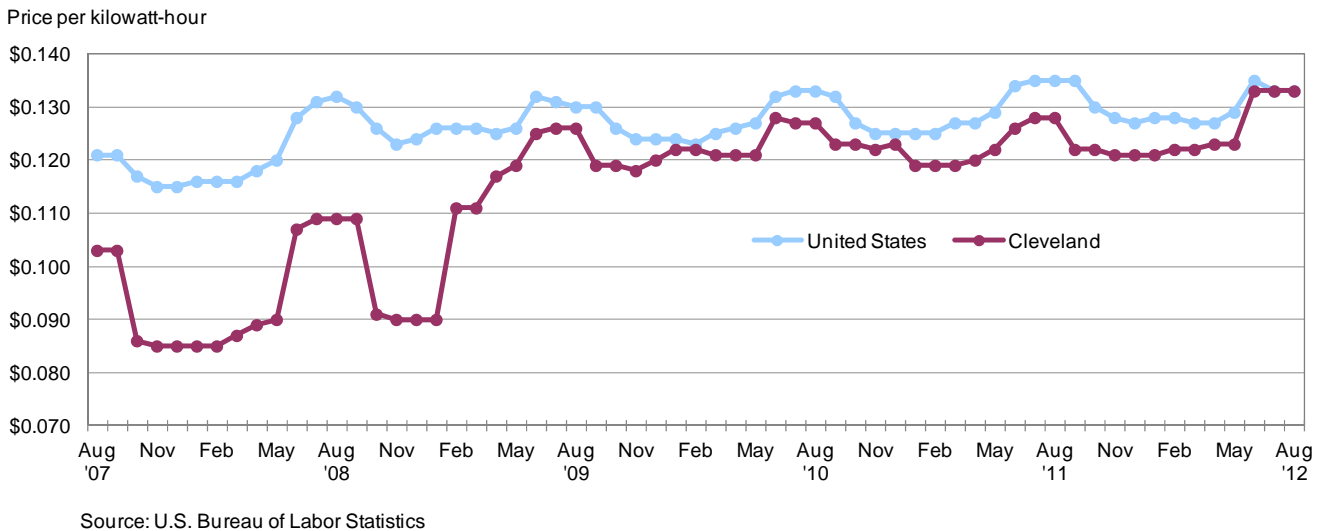
A therm—a measure of constant heating value—of utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, in the Cleveland area averaged \$0.695 in August 2012, a decrease of 21.6 percent from the previous August. Nationwide, a therm averaged \$0.960 in August 2012, down 11.0 percent over the year. Since November 2008, natural gas prices in the Cleveland area have remained below the national average. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, United States and Cleveland area, August 2007–August 2012



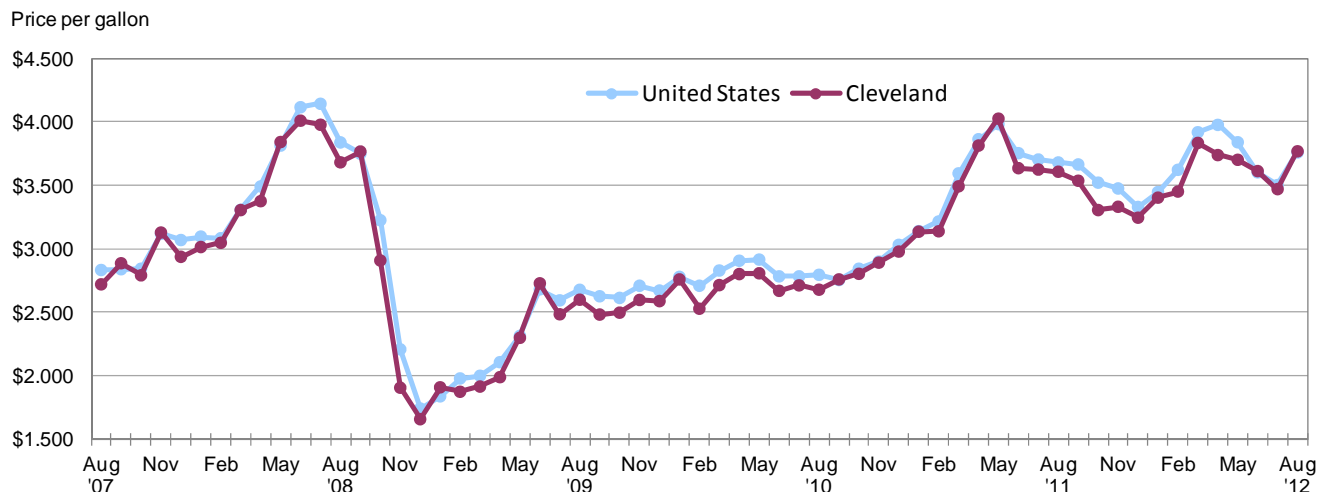
A kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity cost Cleveland area consumers \$0.133 in August 2012, an increase of 3.9 percent from the previous August. Nationwide, electricity prices also averaged \$0.133 in August 2012, little changed from prices a year earlier. Local electricity prices were below the nation for several years, but for the past two months both the Cleveland area and the nation paid the same per kilowatt-hour. (See chart 2.)

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, United States and Cleveland area, August 2007–August 2012



In August 2012 a gallon of gasoline averaged \$3.768 in the Cleveland area, nearly the same as the national average of \$3.759. Over the year, area gasoline prices rose 4.5 percent and nationwide by 2.1 percent. Although the price of gasoline can be volatile from month to month, local and national prices have moved mostly in tandem over the last five years. (See chart 3.)

Chart 3. Average prices for gasoline, United States and Cleveland area, August 2007–August 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Cleveland-Akron Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) is comprised of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit Counties in Ohio.

Technical Note

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.

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.

Table 1. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, electricity, and gasoline, United States and Cleveland area, August 2011-August 2012, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Utility (piped) gas per therm		Electricity per kWh		Gasoline per gallon	
	United States	Cleveland area	United States	Cleveland area	United States	Cleveland area
2011						
August	\$1.079	\$0.886	\$0.135	\$0.128	\$3.680	\$3.607
September	1.063	0.850	0.135	0.122	3.664	3.536
October	1.047	0.808	0.130	0.122	3.521	3.305
November	1.044	0.799	0.128	0.121	3.475	3.331
December	1.034	0.779	0.127	0.121	3.329	3.245
2012						
January	1.021	0.762	0.128	0.122	3.447	3.403
February	0.986	0.731	0.128	0.122	3.622	3.451
March	0.978	0.707	0.127	0.122	3.918	3.834
April	0.951	0.681	0.127	0.123	3.976	3.738
May	0.907	0.627	0.129	0.123	3.839	3.701
June	0.927	0.630	0.135	0.133	3.602	3.612
July	0.943	0.673	0.133	0.133	3.502	3.470
August	0.960	0.695	0.133	0.133	3.759	3.768