

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE  
Atlanta, Ga.

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### AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES IN ATLANTA – JULY 2012

Atlanta area consumers paid 43.5 percent more than the U.S. city average for utility (piped) gas and 7.5 percent more for electricity in July 2012, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Conversely, Atlanta area consumers paid slightly less for gasoline than the nation. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that prices for each of the selected energy products decreased both nationally and in the Atlanta area from a year ago. (See table A. Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

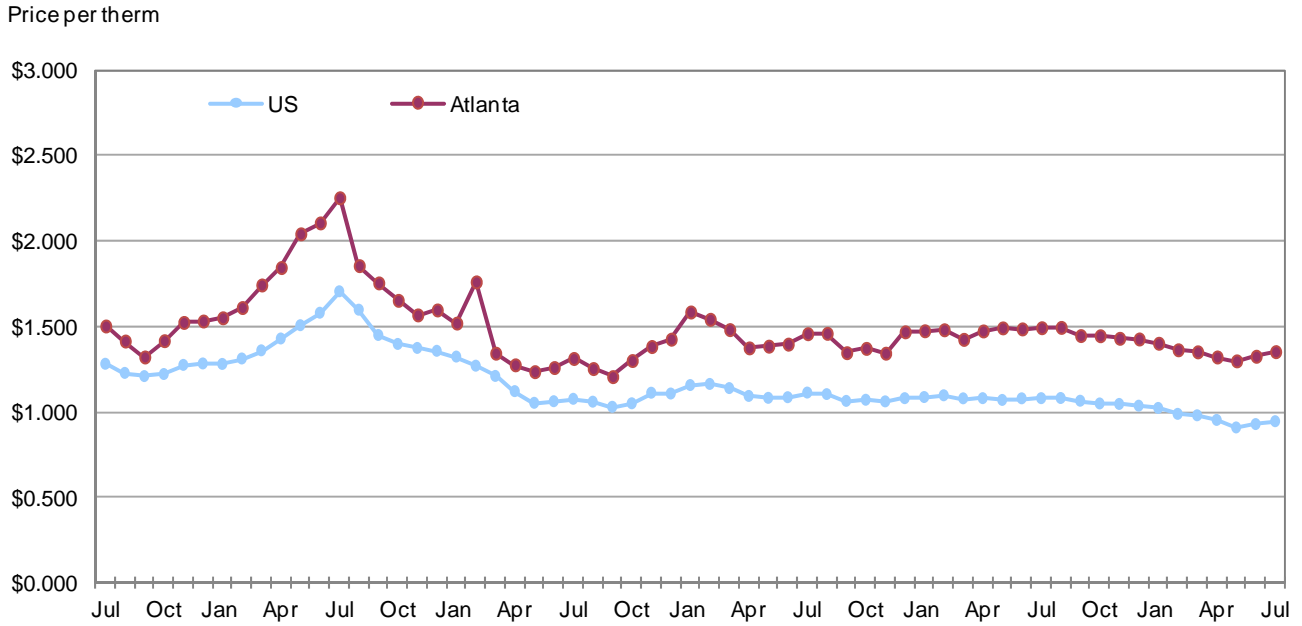
**Table A. Average prices of selected energy products, United States and the Atlanta area, July 2011 and July 2012**

	July 2011			July 2012		
	United States	Atlanta area	Percent difference	United States	Atlanta area	Percent difference
Utility (piped) gas per therm	\$1.078	\$1.493	38.5	\$0.943	\$1.353	43.5
Electricity per kWh	\$0.135	\$0.145	7.4	\$0.133	\$0.143	7.5
Gasoline per gallon	\$3.703	\$3.677	-0.7	\$3.502	\$3.353	-4.3

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

A therm—a measure of constant heating value—of utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, in the Atlanta area averaged \$1.353 in July 2012, down 9.4 percent from the previous year. Nationwide, a therm declined 12.5 percent from July 2011 to July 2012. Over the past five years, Atlanta utility (piped) gas prices have remained above national prices. (See chart 1.)

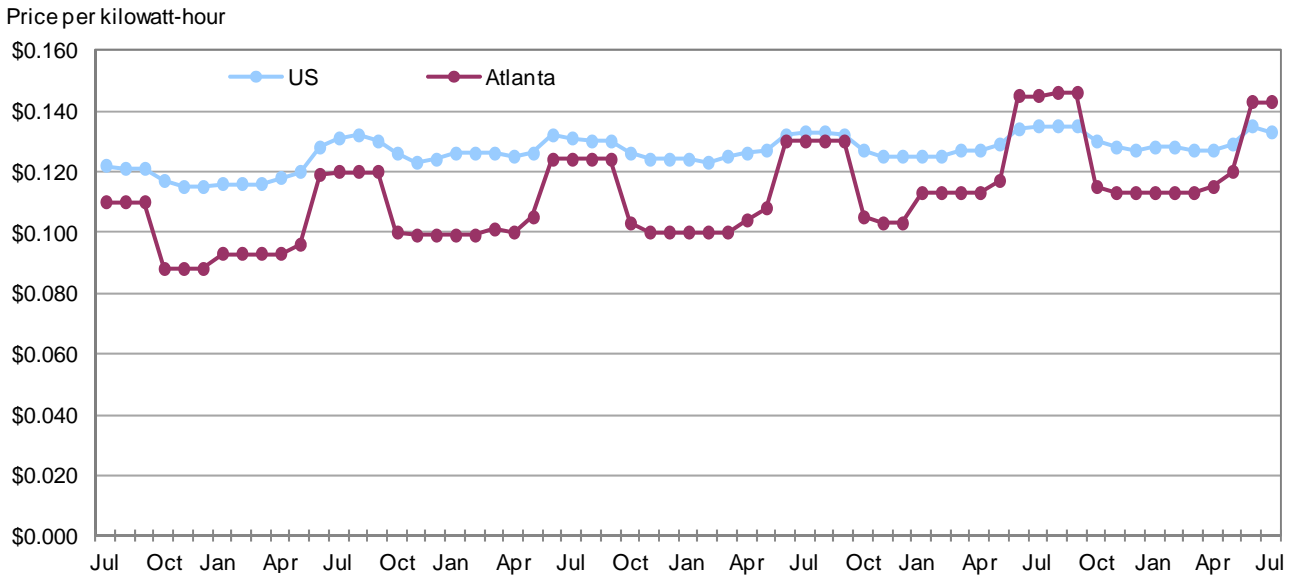
**Chart 1. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, United States and the Atlanta area, July 2007–July 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity cost Atlanta area consumers \$0.143 in July 2012 compared to \$0.133 nationwide. The price of electricity was little changed over the year both locally and nationally. Local electricity prices, which are subject to seasonal fluctuations, have been below the national average for most of the past five years. (See chart 2.)

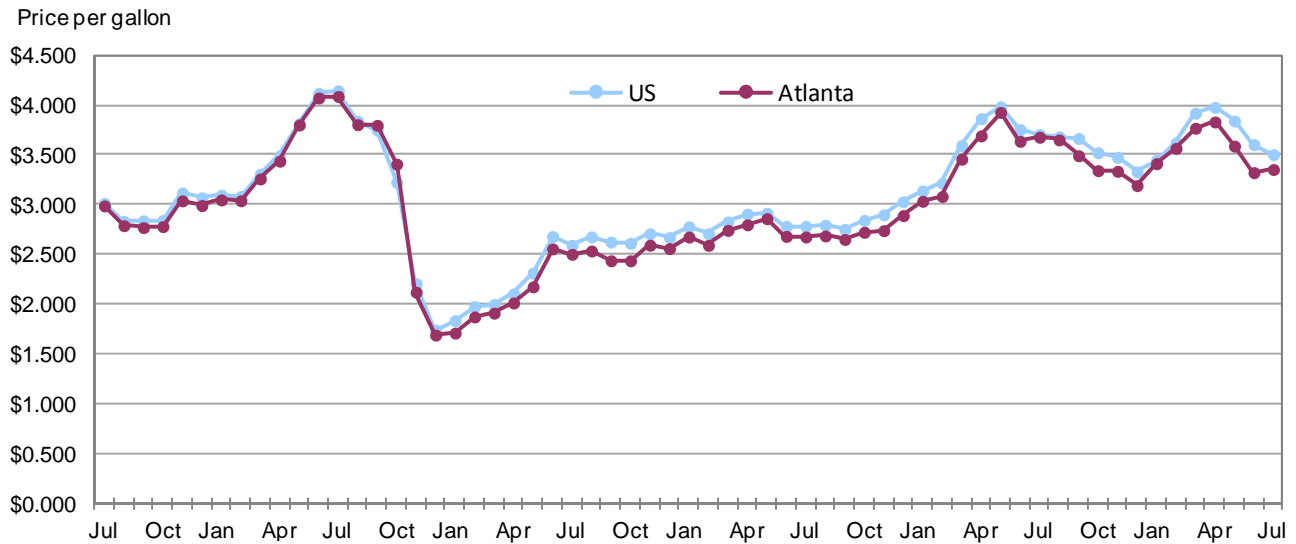
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, United States and the Atlanta area, July 2007–July 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

In July 2012, a gallon of gasoline averaged \$3.353 in the Atlanta area, slightly below the national average of \$3.502. Over the year, gasoline prices declined 8.8 percent in Atlanta area compared to a 5.4-percent decrease nationwide. Although the price of gasoline can be volatile from month to month, local and national prices have moved in tandem over the last five years. (See chart 3.)

**Chart 3. Average prices for gasoline, United States and the Atlanta area, July 2007–July 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Atlanta, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding and Walton Counties in Georgia.

### 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 prices 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, gasoline and electricity, United States and the Atlanta area, July 2011–July 2012, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and Month	Utility (piped) gas per therm		Electricity per kWh		Gasoline per gallon	
	United States	Atlanta area	United States	Atlanta area	United States	Atlanta area
2011						
July	1.078	1.493	0.135	0.145	3.703	3.677
August	1.079	1.495	0.135	0.146	3.680	3.650
September	1.063	1.447	0.135	0.146	3.664	3.491
October	1.047	1.446	0.130	0.115	3.521	3.342
November	1.044	1.431	0.128	0.113	3.475	3.335
December	1.034	1.427	0.127	0.113	3.329	3.192
2012						
January	1.021	1.402	0.128	0.113	3.447	3.412
February	0.986	1.364	0.128	0.113	3.622	3.565
March	0.978	1.352	0.127	0.113	3.918	3.767
April	0.951	1.322	0.127	0.115	3.976	3.830
May	0.907	1.299	0.129	0.120	3.839	3.588
June	0.927	1.326	0.135	0.143	3.602	3.322
July	0.943	1.353	0.133	0.143	3.502	3.353