



*Independent Statistics & Analysis*

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## **Natural gas, propane, and electricity supplies seen plentiful this winter for U.S. home heating**

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Supplies of the major heating fuels used by most U.S. households are expected to be plentiful this winter, with the possible exception of heating oil, which is consumed mostly by households in the Northeast.

Heating oil stocks are expected to be low in the East Coast and Gulf Coast states. And with New York state requiring heating oil with lower sulfur levels for the first time, the heating oil market is expected to be tighter this winter, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's new winter fuels forecast.

However, U.S. inventories of natural gas, the most common primary heating fuel used by households and a key fuel for electricity generation, is expected to reach 3.9 trillion cubic feet by Nov 1st, a record high for that time of year. In addition to plenty of natural gas for generating electric heat, coal stocks held by the U.S. electric power sector are expected to be 19 percent higher at the beginning of November than a year ago.

Inventories of propane, which heats about 5 percent of all U.S. households and is more common in rural areas, totaled nearly 76 million barrels in early October, up one-third from a year ago.

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