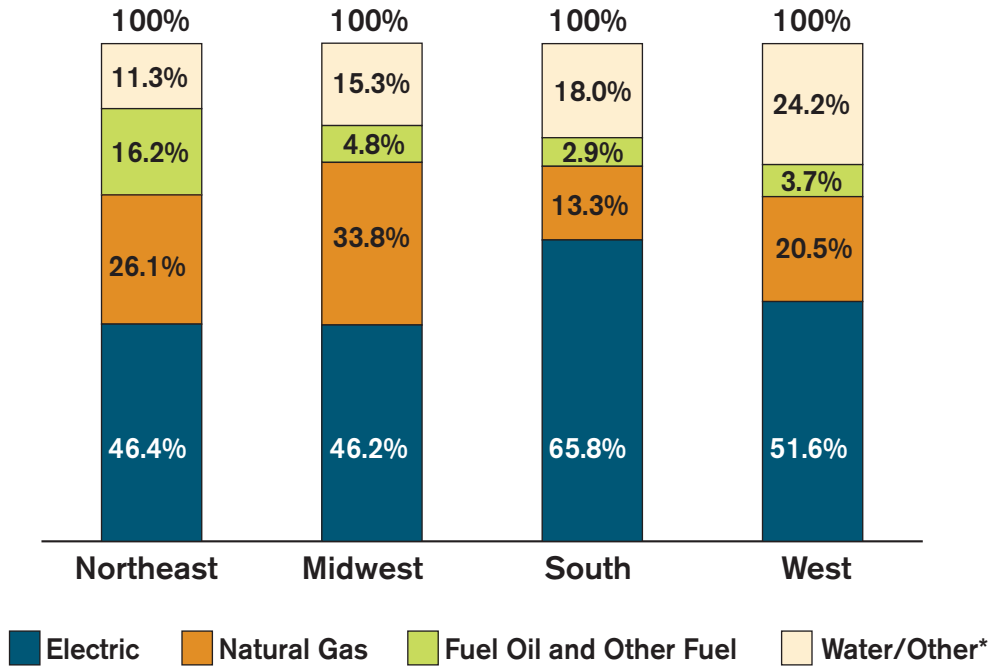


Utility Usage by Region, 2005-2006 Average: All Households (Percent of Total Utility Bill)



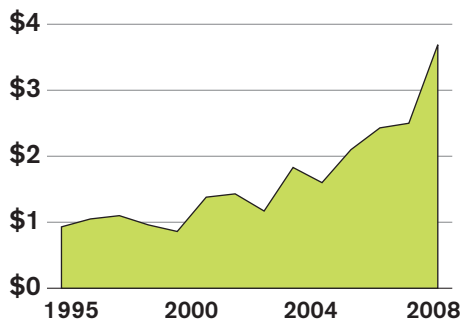
NOTE: Regional utility figures are not broken out by tenure.
*See note on page 10.

Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey.

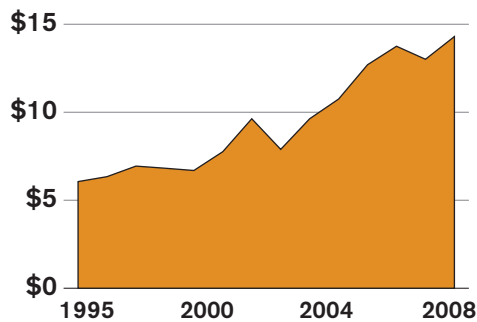
Families in the Northeast and Midwest Regions Will See Rising Utility Bills as Fuel Oil and Natural Gas Prices Increase

Climate plays a large role in the variations in regional utility usage. Households in the Northeast tend to rely on fuel oil, while those in the Midwest use more natural gas. Prices for both of these commodities have been rising in recent years — with particularly steep jumps between 2007 and 2008 — suggesting that utility bills may consume a larger portion of families' budgets in these regions. Electricity comprises a large share of household utility usage in the South and West, but its average price has held relatively steady. Households in the West tend to spend more on the combination of water, sewer, trash, and septic bills than in other regions.

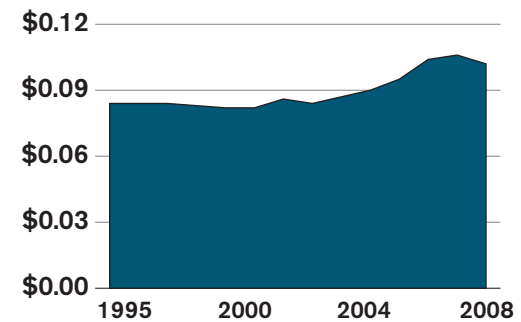
Fuel Oil Price (per gallon)
1995–2008



Natural Gas Price (per thousand cubic feet)
1995–2008



Electric Price (per kilowatt hour)
1995–2008



NOTE: Fuel oil prices are from March of each year. The 2008 natural gas price is from April. The 2008 electricity price is from February.

Source: Energy Information Administration.