

GAS FACTS

2017

 **ENERGY RESERVES**  **NATURAL GAS SUPPLY**
 **END USERS**  **SALES**  **TRANSPORTATION VOLUMES**
 **DISTRIBUTION AND TRANSMISSION**
 **FINANCE**  **PERSONNEL DATA**
 **UNDERGROUND STORAGE**
 **ENERGY CONSUMPTION**
 **REVENUES**  **PRICES**
 **HOUSING DATA**
 **GLOSSARY**
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2017

Unless otherwise noted, material presented in this volume is based on data collected from individual utilities by the Department of Statistics of the American Gas Association. It may be excerpted without charge, but credit to the source is requested.

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Statistics and Survey System

The underlying data for many of the tables in *Gas Facts* can be accessed by **AGA members** via the Statistics and Survey System, a Web-based application housed on the AGA website. To access this online database system, visit the site at www.aga.org, and when prompted, enter your AGA website username and password.

For further information or assistance with the Statistics system, AGA members may contact Mr. Paul Pierson, Director, Statistical Services at (202) 824-7133 or via e-mail at ppierson@aga.org.

AGA members and non-members may request specific queries of the database for a nominal fee. If you would like information regarding available data or query fees, please contact Mr. Paul Pierson, Director, Statistical Services at (202) 824-7133 or via e-mail at ppierson@aga.org.

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INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

The American Gas Association assumed its present status as a gas utility industry trade association in 1918, after a merger of two predecessor organizations. Today it renders assistance to the gas utility industry and provides an advocacy platform for local distribution companies, so that the industry may serve its customers more efficiently. The Association recognizes the need for factual information regarding the gas industry for the use, not only of industry organizations, but also interested outside publics. Its statistical efforts are a vital part of this function, and the publication of *Gas Facts* is one result of these efforts.

This publication contains detailed statistics for 2015 and summary statistics for prior years for the gas utility industry which by definition, consists of the companies engaged in natural gas distribution and transmission. The publication also contains relevant data on the gas producing segment of the industry. Gas volumes are expressed in millions of cubic feet (at 14.73 psi and 60°F unless otherwise noted) and in British thermal units (Btu) to permit direct comparison with other energy data. A conversion table is included as Appendix B. Throughout the publication numbers may not add up to total due to independent rounding.

The user should be aware that a large transportation market has developed, which directly impacts gas utility sales quantities, revenues and number of customers. Although total pipeline throughput may remain the same, as transportation volumes to end-users increase, gas utility sales quantities to end-users will decrease.

Data presented in *Gas Facts*, broken down by company type, are not necessarily comparable from year to year. Acquisitions, mergers and corporate reorganizations continue to cause the number of companies in any given category to vary from year to year. Some of these changes are significant and can cause a dramatic shift in the data reported for a specific category from prior years.

In addition, data and resulting estimates are attributed to utility industry segments in *Gas Facts* as distribution, transmission or integrated, based not only on company operating revenues (see glossary) but also on how the company submitted information in the *Uniform Statistical Report* (USR). For example, if a company submits data under one corporate name, such as qualifying revenue, for distribution and transmission activities combined, then it is placed in the integrated category. However, if a large company submits data for its distribution companies separate from transmission companies, no effort is made to recombine the data to produce an integrated result. Distribution data in this case is attributed to the distribution segment and transmission data to the transmission segment.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Most of the information contained in this volume is developed from data forms contained in the *Uniform Statistical Report* and other sources such as the Energy Information Administration (EIA) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Tables presented in *Gas Facts* use data primarily from distribution companies submitting a *Uniform Statistical Report* (USR) and estimates for those companies not reporting based on recent historical experience.

Estimates of proved reserves of natural gas are taken from the U.S. Department of Energy report *U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves*. Data for gas spaceheating customers were taken from the AGA *Residential Natural Gas Market Survey*. Changes in the quantity and format of data reported to AGA, the Energy Information Administration, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and others have influenced the quality and type of tables that can be constructed from the available sources. As a result, tables in this edition have been modified or eliminated compared with previous *Gas Facts* editions based on judgements regarding sample size and data quality.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to those companies participating in the *Uniform Statistical Report* data gathering effort. Their cooperation and support are the essential elements to making this publication a primary source of gas utility industry data. Also greatly appreciated is the cooperation of the public and governmental agencies credited in *Gas Facts* tables.

Key contributions to this publication have been made by the Director, Statistical Services, Paul Pierson; Statistical Consultant, Kelly Hopkins; and Specialist, Lucy Castañeda-Land.

SECTION 1

2015 IN REVIEW

Highlights from this edition of *Gas Facts*

Supply

- Estimated working gas capacity in underground storage was 4,216 Bcf, with a total deliverability of 95,233 MMcf per day.
- The United States imported 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in 2015, primarily from Canada.

Delivery

- The U.S. natural gas industry had 2.51 million miles of pipeline — including distribution, services, transmission, and gathering lines — in place in 2015.

Sales

- Gas utility sales decreased 7.8 percent in 2015 to 7,602 trillion Btu.
- Residential sales decreased 8.7 percent from 2014 levels.
- Commercial sales decreased 7.9 percent.
- Industrial sales decreased 5.8 percent.

Prices

- The average retail natural gas price decreased 11.0 percent in 2015 compared to 2014.
- The average residential price decreased 6.2 percent.
- Average commercial prices decreased 10.2 percent.
- Average industrial prices decreased 30.1 percent.