

Retail Energy Costs by State

As companies continue to grapple with high-density computing, energy pricing has become a significant factor in data center site location decisions. Which state has the cheapest power? For industrial customers the answer is Idaho, according to The U.S. Energy Information Administration, which keeps monthly data for retail electric pricing. The EIA numbers represent state-wide averages, and individual utilities within each state may have higher or lower rates than the average shown here. This chart shows rate information for February 2007, the most recent month for which state data is available.

We've included the average price in February 2006 for each state, which shows whether prices have been trending higher or lower over the most recent 12-month period. One of the states with the strongest downward trend is Oklahoma, where Google just located a major data center project. The strongest upward trend was in Maine, which already has the third-highest state average, topped only by Hawaii and Massachusetts.

U.S. ENERGY COST BY STATE				
Average Retail Price for Industrial Customers, in Cents per Kilowatt Hour				
Rank	State	Feb 07	Feb 06	Change
1	Idaho	3.16	3.55	-0.39
2	West Virginia	3.77	3.63	0.14
3	Wyoming	4.13	3.99	0.14
4	Utah	4.23	3.85	0.38
5	Missouri	4.27	3.98	0.29
6	Kentucky	4.27	3.48	0.79
7	North Dakota	4.28	4.19	0.09
8	Nebraska	4.35	4.15	0.2
9	Iowa	4.67	4.97	-0.3
10	Washington	4.78	4.37	0.41
11	South Carolina	4.79	4.39	0.4
12	Kansas	4.83	4.74	0.09
13	Indiana	4.87	4.72	0.15
14	South Dakota	4.9	4.72	0.18
15	Virginia	4.9	4.52	0.38
16	North Carolina	4.92	4.97	-0.05
17	Oklahoma	4.95	5.88	-0.93
18	Oregon	4.99	4.45	0.54
19	Alabama	5.03	4.34	0.69
20	Montana	5.05	4.97	0.08
21	Arkansas	5.12	4.76	0.36
22	Georgia	5.38	5.32	0.06
23	Tennessee	5.4	4.97	0.43
24	New Mexico	5.4	6.17	-0.77
25	Mississippi	5.57	6.08	-0.51
26	Arizona	5.6	5.33	0.27
27	Minnesota	5.64	5.1	0.54
28	Ohio	5.7	5.39	0.31
29	Colorado	5.91	6.09	-0.18
30	Wisconsin	6.1	5.77	0.33
31	Michigan	6.54	5.47	1.07
32	Illinois	6.63	4.47	2.16
33	Pennsylvania	6.68	6.51	0.17
34	Louisiana	6.99	7.99	-1
35	Nevada	7.53	7.01	0.52
36	Florida	7.67	7.45	0.22
37	Texas	7.72	7.99	-0.27
38	New York	8.56	8.16	0.4
39	Delaware	8.62	5.47	3.15
40	Vermont	8.87	8.44	0.43
41	Maryland	8.93	9.47	-0.54
42	California	9.24	8.65	0.59
43	District of Columbia	10.48	10.49	-0.01
44	New Jersey	11.09	8.71	2.38
45	Alaska	11.2	9.44	1.76
46	Rhode Island	11.79	12.48	-0.69
47	New Hampshire	12.57	13.35	-0.78
48	Connecticut	13.14	11.85	1.29
49	Maine	13.31	7.63	5.68
50	Massachusetts	13.45	11.31	2.14
51	Hawaii	16.82	17.87	-1.05
52	U.S. Total	6.2	5.87	0.33

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration