

Natural Gas *Explained*

Use of Natural Gas – Basics

Natural gas is a major energy source for the United States

The United States used about 26.8 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas in 2014, the equivalent of 27.5 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu) and 28% of total U.S. energy use.¹

How natural gas is used

Natural gas is used as a fuel to produce steel, glass, paper, clothing, brick, and electricity. Natural gas is also used as a raw material for many products, including paints, fertilizer, plastics, antifreeze, dyes, photographic film, medicines, and explosives.

Natural gas is a major fuel used to heat buildings. About half of the homes in the United States use natural gas as their main heating fuel. Natural gas is also used in homes and businesses for cooking, for heating water, for drying clothes, and for outdoor lighting.

The top five consumers of natural gas in the United States in 2014 were:

- Electric power sector—8.1 Tcf
- Industrial sector—7.4 Tcf
- Residential sector—5.1 Tcf
- Commercial sector—3.5 Tcf
- Oil and natural gas industry—1.6 Tcf

Where natural gas is used

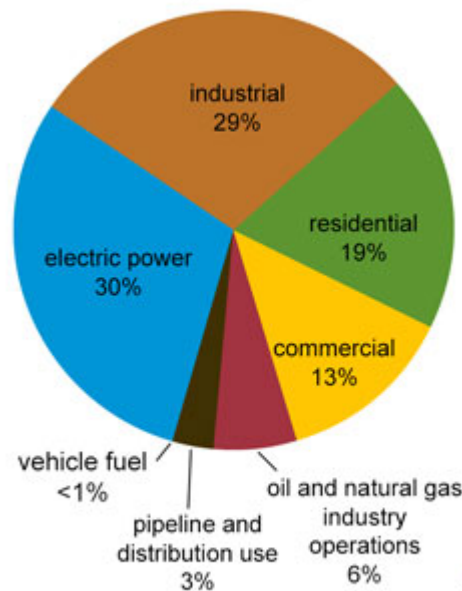
Natural gas is used throughout the United States, but five states accounted for about 36% of total U.S. natural gas consumption in 2014:

- Texas—12.7%
- California—8.6%
- Louisiana—4.9%
- New York—4.9%
- Florida—4.9%

¹Preliminary data for 2014.



U.S. natural gas use, 2014



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Monthly* (February 2015), preliminary data

[More data »](#)

Learn More

- [Natural gas consumption by end use](http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_sum_dcu_nus_a.htm) — http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_sum_dcu_nus_a.htm
- [Natural gas articles](http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/index.cfm?tg=%20natural%20gas) — <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/index.cfm?tg=%20natural%20gas>

http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=natural_gas_use