



FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



Mississippi Utility Customer Update

Consumption x Rate = Bill; Where Do Mississippi Electricity Bills Rank?

This newsletter has reported on the costs of energy to consumers in several formats. A recent comparison of states with the lowest and highest electric bills was created by SaveOnEnergy.com® analysts using the latest Energy Information Administration data.

The average U.S. resident uses 867 kWh/month. So which states have the lowest electricity bills on average? New Mexico took the top spot as the state with the lowest electric bills, at only **\$74.05** per month. The rate price was close to the national average at **12.04** cents per kWh, but having the 10th lowest consumption rate of 615 kWh per month put New Mexico as the top state for lowest energy costs.

Cost Ranking	State	Average Monthly Usage (kWh)	Rate (cents/kWh)	Average Bill (dollars)
1	New Mexico	615	12.04	74.05
2	Utah	745	9.97	74.28
3	Colorado	678	11.9	80.68
4	Illinois	692	12.3	85.12
5	Maine	546	16.11	87.96
6	Iowa	831	11.08	92.07
7	Wyoming	854	10.84	92.57
8	Arkansas	1028	9.01	92.62
9	Wisconsin	660	14.06	92.8
10	Oklahoma	1039	9.02	93.72

So which states are in the bottom 10 of energy costs and thus pay higher average bills? *Consistent with other national data sets, Mississippi comes in as having the **10th highest average electricity bill in the nation.***

Mississippi's average electricity rate (11.12 cents/kWh) is just below the national average as the 22nd lowest rate in the nation. However, Mississippi residents consume an average of 1132 kWh per month (4th highest in the nation). Even with a below average electric price rate, our very high electricity consumption put Mississippi in the top ten of most expensive states with a monthly average bill of **\$125.88**.

41	Mississippi	1132	11.12	125.88
42	Arizona	1033	12.26	126.65
43	South Carolina	1082	11.77	127.35
44	Massachusetts	583	21.99	128.2
45	Florida	1089	11.86	129.16
46	Rhode Island	577	22.51	129.88
47	Alabama	1136	11.62	132
48	Alaska	601	21.99	132.16
49	Connecticut	690	20.84	143.8
50	Hawaii	506	34.43	174.22



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Southeastern State Residential Rate Comparison for 12 Months Ended July 2019

Using state-based data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) and focusing on the August 2018 to July 2019 time frame, Staff have calculated the average residential cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for Mississippi and other Southeastern states. Across the Southeast, the average residential monthly rate is **11.23** cents/kWh. Across the United States, the average residential monthly rate is **12.96** cents/kWh.

The chart below lists the Southeast states ranked lowest average residential monthly rate to highest average residential monthly rate over the 12-month period of August 2018 to July 2019.

State	Rate (cents/kWh)	State	Rate (cents/kWh)
Louisiana	9.35	Texas	11.68
Arkansas	9.72	Florida	11.81
Kentucky	10.64	Virginia	11.91
Tennessee	10.85	South Carolina	12.22
Mississippi	11.29	Alabama	12.45
Georgia	11.34		
North Carolina	11.48	Southeast Average	11.23

As you can see, Mississippi rates averaged out across the state are nearly identical to the Southeast average but are below the national average. But how do the electric utilities operating in Mississippi rank out as compared to the overall state average, Southeast average and to other states?

Mississippi	8/2018	9/2018	10/2018	11/2018	12/2018	1/2019	2/2019	3/2019	4/2019	5/2019	6/2019	7/2019	
Entergy Mississippi (EMI)	8.90	8.94	9.65	10.40	9.86	9.69	9.70	10.03	10.47	10.47	9.57	9.77	9.69
Mississippi Power (MPC)	13.78	13.11	14.47	12.82	13.50	11.88	14.26	13.89	14.91	13.91	13.71	13.79	13.59
Municipalities/Cooperatives	11.45	11.36	11.34	11.92	11.26	11.41	11.24	10.82	12.18	12.27	11.84	11.57	11.62
Mississippi (Total)*	10.98	10.86	11.22	11.58	11.12	10.96	11.15	10.96	12.01	11.94	11.40	11.31	11.29

As you can see from the chart above, Entergy Mississippi average rates are below the Mississippi and Southeast average. Meanwhile, aggregated Municipalities/Cooperatives are very close to the Mississippi and Southeast average. Mississippi Power Co. rates however are above Mississippi, Southeast and United States average residential monthly rates.

Entergy Mississippi serves approximately **29.4%** of the Mississippi's residential customers, Mississippi Power Co. serves **12.1%**, and the combined municipalities/cooperatives serve the remaining **58.5%**.

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The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

Brent Bailey