

# RESIDENTIAL NATURAL GAS MARKET SURVEY 2001 DATA

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## **RESIDENTIAL NATURAL GAS MARKET SURVEY**

**2001 DATA**

54th Annual Survey  
Natural Gas Utility Industry  
United States

*Published by:*

**Policy Analysis Group**  
**American Gas Association**  
400 N. Capitol St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
[www.aga.org](http://www.aga.org)

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**AGA Catalog No. F00003**

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction .....	1
I. Executive Summary.....	2
II. United States Housing Market in 2001 .....	4
New Housing Completions .....	4
Existing Housing .....	8
III. Residential Natural Gas Customers in 2001 .....	11
Total Residential Customers .....	11
House Heating Customers.....	11
Natural Gas Customer and Unit Additions.....	11
House Heating Conversions.....	11
IV. Natural Gas Appliance Market Share and Consumption.....	13
Market Share of Natural Gas Appliances in Residences .....	13
Natural Gas Consumption per Appliance.....	16
V. Residential Bill Payment Assistance Programs.....	16
VI. Competitive Residential Energy Prices .....	17
Appendix 1 - Sales Customers, Consumption, and Revenue Data by Company	
Appendix 2 – Transportation Customers and Consumption Data by Company	
Appendix 3 – Changes in Customers and Consumption from Previous Year by Company	
Appendix 4 – Metropolitan Statistical Area Natural Gas Market Shares	
Appendix 5 – U. S. Census Regions	

## LIST OF TABLES

	Page
1. 2001 Private Housing Completions by Heating Fuel.....	5
2. A Comparison of 2000 and 2001 Private Housing Completions .....	6
3. Market Share of Private Housing Completions by Heating Fuel (1991-2001).....	8
4. 2000 Household Space Heating Market Share.....	9
5. Historic Household Space Heating Market Shares .....	10
6. 2001 Gas Customers and Unit Additions .....	12
7. Market Share of Natural Gas Space Heating 1987-2001.....	13
8. Market Share of Natural Gas Cooking 1987-2001 .....	13
9. Market Share of Natural Gas Water Heating 1987-2001 .....	14
10. Market Share of Natural Gas Clothes Drying 1987-2001 .....	14
11. Market Share of Natural Gas, 2001 .....	14
12. Natural Gas Market Share by Sector, 2001 .....	15
13. Market Share for Space Heating by Size of Home .....	15
14. 2001 Annual Gas Consumption per Appliance by Region.....	16
15. Energy Assistance and Energy Efficiency Contributions .....	17
16. 2001 Competitive Fuel Prices .....	18

## LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
1. Natural Gas vs. Electricity and Oil Single Family Home Completions 1991-2001.....	3
2. Market Share of All Private Housing Completions 1991-2001 .....	7

## INTRODUCTION

This year's report is the 54<sup>th</sup> annual *Residential Natural Gas Market Survey* conducted by the American Gas Association (AGA). The data collected for 2001 provides a unique and comprehensive portrait of the residential natural gas market. Detailed information is presented by state and region, including customers, market share, inventory additions from new homes, and conversions from alternative fuels. Company-specific data are reported in Appendices 1, 2 and 3. Appendix 4 presents natural gas market shares data for the metropolitan statistical areas.

A total of 51 natural gas utility companies responded to this year's survey. This is an increase from the 43 utilities that responded to the 2000 survey. Company-specific data were derived from the Energy Information Administration's Form 176 database. In addition, some state total data were derived from AGA's Gas Facts: 2001 survey responses. Individual company data are listed by region and state in Appendices 1, 2 and 3. Market share data by metropolitan statistical area are presented in Appendix 4. Please note that some tabular data may not add up to the totals shown due to rounding.

Incorporated in the survey results are data regarding new private housing completions from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The source of these data is different from the statistics compiled from the survey respondents and should be evaluated separately.

Our thanks go to those companies participating in the *2001 Residential Natural Gas Market Survey* information-gathering effort. Their cooperation and support are the essential elements that have made this publication a primary source of natural gas utility industry data and an important industry reference.

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The residential natural gas customer count reached 60 million in 2001, or 61 percent of total U.S. households. Approximately 83 percent of these natural gas customers use natural gas for house heating purposes.
- The natural gas share of new single-family housing completions matched or exceeded the electric share in all regions. Gas single-family homes completed in 2001 registered a 70 percent market share, the same as in 2000. New gas single-family home completions have exceeded all other energy sources for at least ten years (see Figure 1). When both single and multi-family units are considered, the gas share of new housing completions increased slightly to 65 percent compared to the previous year. The overall electric share fell to 32 percent in 2001.
- New additions to the number of residential customers totaled one million in 2001. This represents an increase of three percent compared to last year.
- The 2001 survey results showed that roughly 18 percent of all new customers came from homes converted from another energy source to natural gas. The respondents were asked to provide a breakdown of conversions by fuel type. Based on these data, fuel oil conversions to natural gas accounted for 52 percent of all conversions. Approximately 33 percent of conversion customers had previously heated with electricity. The respondents were unable to identify the previous heating fuel for 15 percent of the homes.
- The overall market share for natural gas space heat in existing homes rose slightly to 52 percent since 1999. Natural gas water heaters have maintained a similar market share as well, while shares for gas cooking and clothes drying remained at 35 percent and 22 percent, respectively.
- During 2001, more than \$2.8 billion went to assist low-income households pay their energy bills or weatherize their homes. Most of the funding came from LIHEAP, with \$1.7 billion in normal appropriations and emergency funds. Utilities, both electric and natural gas, accounted for 25 percent (\$700 million) of the total in the form of discounts, waivers, forgiveness of arrearages, and weatherization programs.