



Representing America's Natural Gas Utilities

Financial and Operational Information Series

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Lost and Unaccounted For Gas

- According to recent data, *lost* and *unaccounted for* gas exceeded one percent of total natural gas utility throughput in the United States in 2013 and 2016 but is all around 33 to 50 percent less than in years prior.
- Utility unaccounted for gas is most likely a result of operational measurement discrepancies of gas moving through the utility system rather than natural gas escaping unburned into the atmosphere.
- For 2014 data, about half of the 191 companies in the sample reported negative values for unaccounted for gas, an increase compared to the other years studied.

Lost and Unaccounted For Gas – Volume (Mcf)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Losses from Leaks Volume 1/	61,537,491	85,222,184	80,786,347	81,628,475
Unaccounted For 2/	91,841,296	-1,193,224	17,481,264	69,796,810
Utility Disposition Volume	14,925,068,081	15,441,340,933	15,365,522,528	14,892,492,524

Lost And Unaccounted For Gas - Percent of Total Volumes

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Losses from Leaks	0.41%	0.55%	0.53%	0.55%
Unaccounted For	0.62%	-0.01%	0.11%	0.47%
Lost and Unaccounted For	1.03%	0.54%	0.64%	1.02%

Source: *Energy Information Administration*, 176 Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition

Methodology

- Based on data from 191 local natural gas utility companies.
- 1/ Losses from Leaks, Accidents, & Other Damage – Losses from leaks, migration, accidents, etc. Volume of loss may represent reporting entity's best estimate.
- 2/ Unaccounted for Gas Supply – Gas supply or disposition not accounted for. Positive number indicates unaccounted for supply in excess of gas dispositions. Negative number indicates unaccounted for disposition greater than supply.

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