

Natural Gas Utilities Continue to Grow

4/30/2026

Key National Trends

- More than 73.7 million U.S. households received residential natural gas service in 2024, according to EIA data, highlighting the continued scale and importance of natural gas in meeting residential energy needs nationwide.
- 586,796 net new residential natural gas consumers were added between 2023 and 2024, reflecting continued growth in residential natural gas services.
- California (11.4 million), Texas (5.3 million), and New York (4.6 million) remain the largest residential natural gas markets in the country, serving millions of households across their utility networks.

Long-Term Growth Trends (2014-2024)

- U.S. residential natural gas consumers grew from 67.2 million in 2014 to 73.7 million in 2024, adding approximately 6.5 million households over the past decade. This represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of roughly 0.9% nationwide, reflecting steady long-term expansion of residential natural gas services.
- Texas (+839,423), California (+646,916), and North Carolina (+261,201), recorded the largest increases in residential natural gas consumers between 2014 and 2024.

State-Level Highlights

Rank	State	Total net Growth (2014–2024)	CAGR - 10Y
1	Texas	839,423	1.7%
2	California	646,916	0.6%
3	North Carolina	261,201	2%
4	Michigan	248,660	0.8%
5	Colorado	247,399	1.4%
6	Utah	233,903	2.4%

Fuel Choice Legislation

Fuel choice laws protect consumer access to natural gas by preventing local governments from banning natural gas connections in new construction. As of 2026, 27 states have adopted fuel choice protections. Of the top six states for residential gas growth since 2014, Texas and Utah have enacted fuel choice laws, while California, North Carolina, Michigan, and Colorado have not. This suggests that while fuel choice policies can help maintain access to natural gas, population growth, housing development, and regional economic trends also play an important role in shaping residential energy demand.

Average Annual Change in Residential End Users

State	1 Year 2023–24	10 Year Average 2014–24	Average 10Y Annual Growth	State	1 Year 2023–24	10 Year Average 2014–24	Average 10Y Annual Growth
Alabama	2,733	2,953	0.4%	Montana	2,615	2,957	1.1%
Alaska	1,780	1,720	1.3%	Nebraska	14,871	3,814	0.7%
Arizona	19,188	20,879	1.6%	Nevada	15,080	15,774	1.8%
Arkansas	(4,411)	1,969	0.4%	New Hampshire	85	1,755	1.6%
California	68,824	64,692	0.6%	New Jersey	22,832	27,698	1.0%
Colorado	23,566	24,740	1.4%	New Mexico	4,322	4,483	0.8%
Connecticut	4,935	7,485	1.3%	New York	15,567	21,112	0.5%
DC	4,257	4,494	2.5%	North Carolina	29,509	26,120	2.0%
Delaware	(778)	568	0.4%	North Dakota	3,369	2,064	1.4%
Florida	32,544	24,237	3.0%	Ohio	(3,935)	21,749	0.6%
Georgia	9,281	15,585	0.9%	Oklahoma	4,216	5,236	0.5%
Hawaii	(293)	-30	-0.1%	Oregon	4,957	10,291	1.4%
Idaho	9,886	10,812	2.6%	Pennsylvania	6,421	18,553	0.7%
Illinois	12,781	13,189	0.3%	Rhode Island	3,958	1,963	0.8%
Indiana	18,455	17,281	1.0%	South Carolina	28,156	23,138	3.3%
Iowa	5,009	6,937	0.7%	South Dakota	3,523	3,347	1.7%
Kansas	3,860	3,230	0.4%	Tennessee	20,271	14,532	1.2%
Kentucky	2,269	3,393	0.4%	Texas	105,198	83,942	1.7%
Louisiana	3,153	2,405	0.3%	Utah	21,373	23,390	2.4%
Maine	1,272	1,594	4.7%	Vermont	(23)	713	1.6%
Maryland	4,557	10,906	0.9%	Virginia	5,613	12,002	1.0%
Massachusetts	1,061	14,293	0.9%	Washington	7,839	16,925	1.4%
Michigan	19,535	24,866	0.8%	West Virginia	(2,072)	-214	-0.1%
Minnesota	18,906	19,093	1.2%	Wisconsin	26,448	18,182	1.0%
Mississippi	(25,383)	-1,520	-0.4%	Wyoming	1,449	1,374	0.8%
Missouri	8,167	9,848	0.7%	Total	586,796	666,520	0.9%

***Green highlight indicates states with fuel choice legislation**

Source: Energy Information Administration EIA-176 Survey

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