

Remonopolization bill leads to skyrocketing electric rates

Now the highest in the Midwest by far, and for the first time in years, above the national average

Census Division and State	Residential			Commercial ¹			Industrial ¹			All Sectors		
	Dec-09	Dec-08	% change	Dec-09	Dec-08	% change	Dec-09	Dec-08	% change	Dec-09	Dec-08	% change
East North Central	10.32	10.09	2.28%	8.71	9.73	-10.48%	6.41	5.83	9.95%	8.63	8.64	-0.12%
Illinois	10.27	10.81	-5.00%	7.91	11.66	-32.16%	7.04	4.48	57.14%	8.59	9.33	-7.93%
Indiana	8.58	8.62	-0.46%	7.9	7.99	-1.13%	5.54	5.56	-0.36%	7.19	7.28	-1.24%
Michigan	11.65	10.76	8.27%	9.76	9.03	8.08%	7.61	6.72	13.24%	9.85	9.05	8.84%
Ohio	10.26	9.56	7.32%	9.23	9.36	-1.39%	6.18	6.43	-3.89%	8.66	8.51	1.76%
Wisconsin	11.38	11.3	0.71%	9.1	9.04	0.66%	6.41	6.31	1.58%	9.06	9	0.67%
U.S. Total	10.93	10.9	0.28%	9.73	10.06	-3.28%	6.52	6.67	-2.25%	9.44	9.57	-1.36%

Source: Energy Information Agency

Michigan's electric remonopolization law went into effect in the fall of 2008. The above chart show how electric rates quickly jumped in Michigan in the first year after the law was signed.

Michigan businesses were told the new law would hold down business rates. Instead, industrial rates increased the most, by 13.2 percent, and today Michigan industrial customers pay 37 percent more than manufacturers in Indiana.

Commercial rates have increased by 8 percent, while in the rest of the Midwest, commercial rates decreased by 10.48 percent.

Residential customers were told rates would increase by only 2.5 percent a year. Overall, residential rates have increased by 8.27 percent -- three times faster -- and for Consumers and DTE customers, the increases have been even higher. Residential customers of DTE today are seeing bills 20 percent higher than when the legislation passed; Consumers residential customers are seeing bills 10 percent higher, with the utility planning to raise rates by another 5 percentage points this summer.