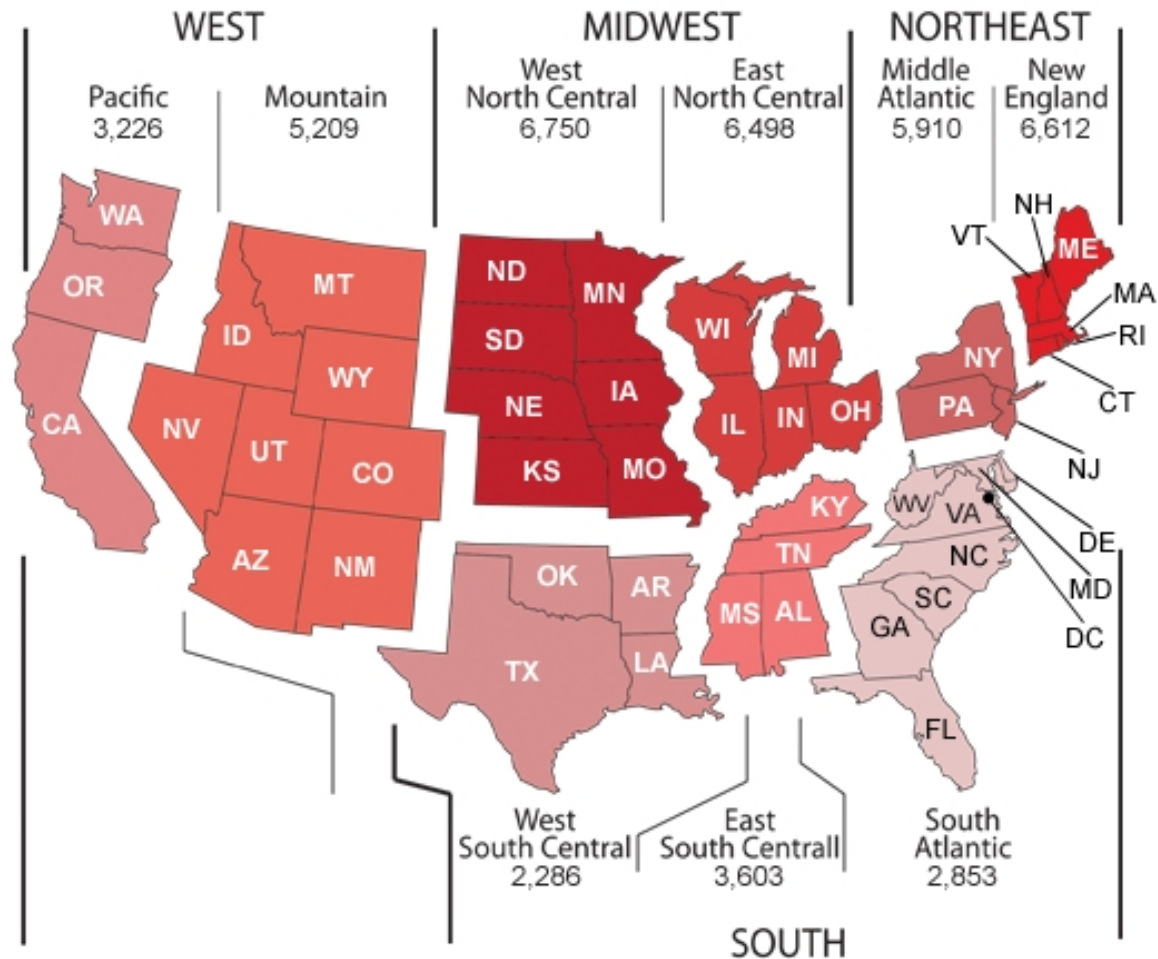


Freezing winter weather or a long, sweltering summer — either one increases your utility bills. But how much of the rise in the cost is a result of the weather? You can find out by using a unit of measure called the "degree-day." A degree-day compares the outdoor temperature to a standard of 65°F; the more extreme the temperature, the higher the degree-day number and the more energy needed for space heating or cooling.

Hot days, which require the use of energy for cooling, are measured in cooling degree-days. On a day with a mean temperature of 80°F, for example, 15 cooling degree-days would be recorded. Cold days are measured in heating degree-days. For a day with a mean temperature of 40°F, 25 heating degree-days would be recorded. Two such cold days would result in a total of 50 heating degree-days for the two-day period.

The West North Central region normally requires more heating than other regions.

Heating Degree Days by Census Region



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review*, Table 8.9. (June 2008)

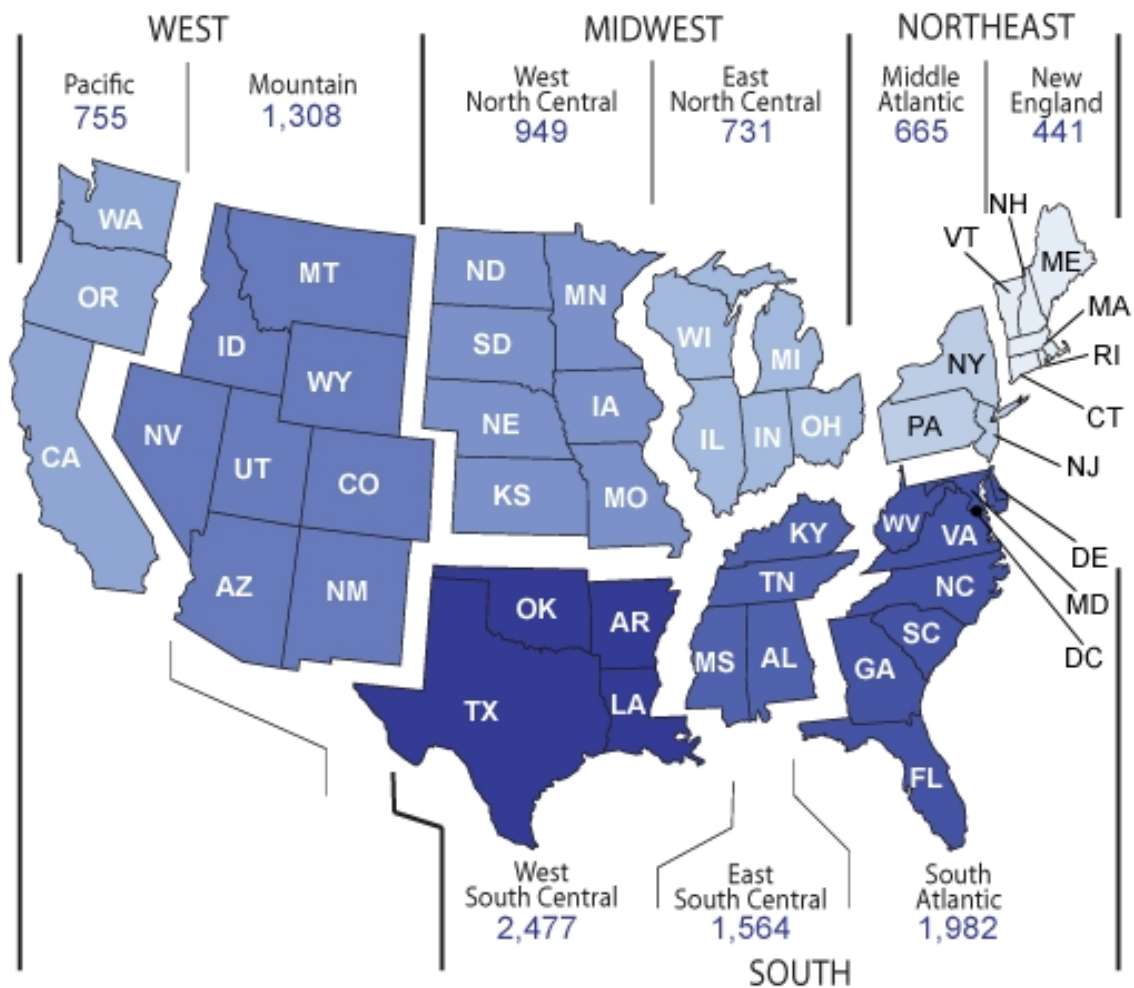
[Data for this figure](#)

What Is Degree-Day Data Used For?

By studying degree-day patterns in your area, you can evaluate the increases or decreases in your heating or air-conditioning bills from year to year.

The West South Central region normally requires more cooling than other regions.

Cooling Degree Days by Census Region



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 2008*, Table 1.10

[Data for this figure](#)

Where Can I Find Degree-Day Data?

In some areas, degree-day information is published in the local newspapers, usually in the weather section. Degree-day information may also be available from your local utility and its public relations department. Some utility bills even show degree-days for each billing period.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration publishes regional averages for:

- **Heating Degree-Days**
- [Most recent month by region](#) (PDF)
- [Historical data by region](#)
- [Historical data by month](#)

- **Cooling Degree-Days**
- [Most recent month by region](#) (PDF)
- [Historical data by region](#)
- [Historical data by month](#)

What Is Normal for Each Region?

The degree-day maps show the population-weighted degree-days that normally occur in each region of the United States.